Puppet Word Detectives

Activity: Children play onset-rime puppet games with the teacher to determine which word the puppets are making when combining the onset (first consonant sound in a word, before the vowel) and rime (the vowel and what follows the vowel in that syllable).

Objective

The children will separate one-syllable words into onset and rime, with pictorial support.

Targeted Standards

IV. Language and Literacy
IV.F.2.f. Combines onset and rime to form a familiar one syllable word with and without pictorial support (e.g., when shown several pictures and adult says /c/=”at”, child can select the picture of the cat)
http://www.floel.org/standardsresource/standards.html#d=IV&a=four_year_old

Procedures

Individual or Small Group
1. Choose one-syllable words in advance. Word families can be used, such as the examples given in this activity, but any one-syllable word can be used.
2. With a puppet on each hand, facing the children, introduce children to the puppets and tell them that the puppets have a secret word that they are going to sound out. The children’s job is to be Sound Detectives and figure out what word the puppets are making. One puppet will say one part of the word and the other puppet will say the other part of the word. Start with the puppets far apart, gradually moving them together each time that the onset and rime are spoken.
3. “Let’s see if the puppets can give us a hint about the word they want us to figure out. Are you ready?” Sound out the word “cat” using two distinct chunks of the word (e.g., onset: /c/, rime: “-at”). Ask the children, “Do any of you know what word is made when we put /c/ and ‘-at’ together?” If no response, repeat, speeding up each portion until the two parts become one word, or until a child guesses the word.
4. “Let’s see if that’s right. Let’s look at the picture card. _______ said the word was cat.” Check the picture card and hold up for children to see.
5. Repeat process with other words.
6. Once children begin to understand the idea behind the game, ask children individually to identify the word the puppets are making.

Materials Needed

Hand puppets, with mouths that open and close, at least two
Picture cards (optional), see end of lesson plan

Checking for Understanding

Children will demonstrate their understanding of the lesson by:

- successfully separating one-syllable words into the onset and the rime, with pictorial support.

Scaffolding

- Provide additional opportunities for children to practice with a friend or with the teacher.
- Reuse same words with children who may need additional support.
- Make more cards using pictures of one-syllable words to use when playing this game.
- Emphasize onset-rime in the classroom when interacting with children throughout the day.

“Can you please bring me the /m/-ilk?”
“Please close the /d/-oor.”
“I need to /th/-ink about that.”
Sample picture cards for the –an word family: can, pan, fan, man, ran, van.
Sample picture cards for the –at word family: cat, bat, mat, hat, rat, sat.