

Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide

Slide and Learn™ Caterpillars: Blends and Digraphs

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Slide and Learn Caterpillars™: Blends and Digraphs**, a fun practice tool for students learning these patterns.

Meeting Common Core State Standards

Really Good Stuff **Slide and Learn Caterpillars: Blends and Digraphs** aligns with the following English Language Arts Standards:

Phonics and Word Recognition

RF.1.3 Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

- a. Know the spelling-sound correspondences for common consonant digraphs and blends.

This Really Good Stuff product includes:

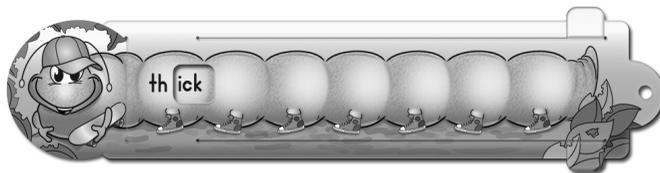
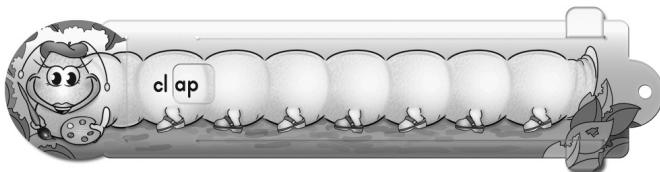
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- This Really Good Stuff Teaching Guide

Substituting beginning blends and digraphs to create new words is an important spelling skill for learning these consonant patterns. The cute **Slide and Learn Caterpillars** provide a fun interactive format for word building that will keep students engaged.

A blend or digraph is printed on each slider. As students pull the slider, they line up each ending phonogram in the window next to the blend or digraph. As they create new words, the caterpillar grows.

Managing the Slide and Learn Caterpillars

- Visit our Web site www.reallygoodstuff.com to download Really Good Stuff Teaching Guides.
- The **Slide and Learn Caterpillars** are attached to a ring so you can hang them up. Keeping them in alphabetical order and separating blends, complex blends, and digraphs will enable you to easily find the blend or digraph you want.



Introducing Slide and Learn Caterpillars

After you have taught the concept of word building with blends and digraphs, students will be ready for **Slide and Learn Caterpillars**. First, review how blends and digraphs work. Write a blend or digraph as two (or three) separate consonants on the board and have the group say their sounds with you. Then, put the consonants together and have the group repeatedly say the blend or digraph with you.

Next, review the concept that a word is made up of an onset and a rime, or *phonogram*. Write one blend or digraph eight to ten times in a column on the board. Fill in the first ending phonogram. Demonstrate combining the blend or digraph with the phonogram as you read the first word. Then, have students help you fill in additional phonograms and read the remaining words.

Show students the two different slider designs. Have some fun talking about the caterpillars, their accessories, and their personalities. Talk about real caterpillars, how they move around on leg-like prolegs, which are actually just grippers. Tell students that caterpillars are in the fast-growing stage of the butterfly's life cycle. They eat constantly because they must grow very quickly in the short couple of weeks before becoming butterflies. Tell students that they will help the **Slide and Learn Caterpillars** grow. Show them that every time you move the slider to pull out a new phonogram to line up with the blend or digraph, a new word is formed and the caterpillar gets longer. As you slide, read each word together.

Next, have a student volunteer work the slider as the group reads each word and you record it on the board in a column. Then, have the group read the words in the column with you three or four times. Point to each word as you read, slightly increasing the speed each time through. Use the words in short, simple sentences, and ask students to do the same. Record sentences and underline the blend or digraph words. Repeated exposure is key to integrating phonetic patterns.

Repeat the process with other sliders before having students use **Slide and Learn Caterpillars** on their own. Introduce at least five new blends or digraphs each week, and regularly review previously studied patterns.

Related Really Good Stuff Products

Slide and Learn™ Caterpillars: CVC Word Families (#306313)

Slide and Learn™ Caterpillars: CVCC Word Families (#306344)

Word Blender Poster and Magnets Kit (#161421)

Essential Word Sorts™ for the Primary Grades (#304845)

Blends and Digraphs in This Set
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blend
blimp
blink
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blush

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clip
clock
clog

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flight
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