

# The ROLLERCOASTER TRICK

## Objective

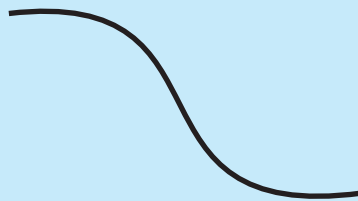
- To blend individual sounds into words.

## Teaching point

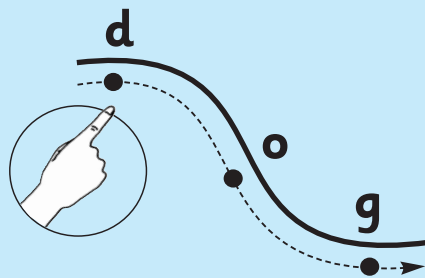
The **ROLLERCOASTER TRICK** is a multi-sensory strategy to help children to blend sounds together all through a word, so the word becomes meaningful.

### The TRICK

- Write down a regular word on the board, but don't read it aloud, e.g. **dog**.
- Draw this 'rollercoaster' shape on the board.



- Next, write the letters **d**, **o** and **g** on the rollercoaster as shown.



- Finger-trace the shape of the rollercoaster as you all say each sound.  
(The children can use a hand action miming a rollercoaster gaining speed as it rushes down the tracks.)
  - ✓ On the first ride, say each individual sound; **d... o... g...**
  - ✓ On the second ride, pick up speed as you blend the sounds together to make a word; **do... g.**
  - ✓ Finally, take a fast ride down the rollercoaster and blend the whole word; **dog.**
- The children can use this blending trick any time they are having trouble reading a phonically regular word. They might like to use one arm (from shoulder to hand) as the rollercoaster, using the other hand to 'ride' the rollercoaster as they blend the sounds smoothly through the word.
- Later on, they can use the same strategy to blend more advanced words, e.g. **c...oa...ch, coach.**

