

Words Their Way: Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction

Your child has been assessed and assigned a series of spelling patterns he or she is developmentally ready to learn. The pattern was taught and practiced in class. Students will spend two weeks on a list of words and be tested every other Tuesday. The suggested activities below will continue to reinforce the learning we are doing in class. The goal of these activities is to help your child understand what the spelling patterns mean and read/spell other words with similar patterns, increasing writing and reading skills, along with improved spelling overall. Nothing needs to be turned in. These are just ideas for your child to use at home to practice at home.

<p>Closed Sort: Spread out your words and sort them using the heading. Teach someone in your family how you sorted the words and what the headings mean.</p>	<p>Open Sort: Spread out your words and sort them without using the headings. Create your own way of sorting the words based on your observations of the words. See if someone in your family can figure out how you sorted the words.</p>	<p>Word Hunt: Write down headings on a piece of paper in a chart. Choose a book and hunt for words that follow the same pattern as each heading and record the words under each heading.</p>
<p>Speed Sort: Set a time and try to complete the sort before the timer goes off. Sort the words again and try to explain your time. Don't forget to explain why you sorted the words the way you did.</p>	<p>Word Memory: Spread out all of your words face down. Turn over two words at a time and determine if they follow the same pattern. If so, you have a match. If not, turn them back over. Continue playing until you have found all possible matches of the words.</p>	<p>Blind Sort: Place your headers at the top. Have someone in your family call out your words without you looking. Show them which header the word would go under and then place it there. Don't forget to explain why you sorted the words the way you did.</p>
<p>Writing Sort: Sort your words using the headers. Write your words in a chart according to each header.</p>	<p>Sort and Highlight: Sort your words using the headers. Use a highlighter or crayon to color each spelling pattern in each word.</p>	<p>Practice Test: Have someone in your family call out your words. Either write or spell aloud the words and tell which category they go in.</p>