

## Getting Started: Basic Word Study Materials

### Organize Teacher-Made Sorts:

- Computer (#1 choice)
- Hard copies in file folders by stage & feature
- Library pockets to store “model” labeled by stage & feature
- Trading card or photo albums (store sorts in pockets & label each pocket)

### Store Students’ Sorts:

- Baggies
- Pencil pouches (buy class set in 3-5 different colors—color code your groups)
- Laminate a brown clasp envelope (smaller size) – include your routine on the outside of the envelope & change out the words each week. Students can check off as they complete tasks each week with marker & erase at end of week.

### Handy Materials for Emergent Spellers

#### Alphabet:

- Picture sort templates (2 & 3 column)
- Name game boxes
- Alphabet tracking chart & sorting mat
- Dictated sentence mat
- Draw & label sheets; glue & label pictures
- Font sorts
- Objects sorts
- Magnetic letters and cookie sheets or metal stove burner covers

#### Concept of Word:

- Concept of Word routine
- Pointers & erasers for letter hunts & tracking
- Sentence & /or Word Counting activity

#### Phonological Awareness:

- Elkonin boxes (onset-rime)
- Mystery bag & open mouth puppet for: rhyming games, clapping syllables, blending & segmentation, etc.

#### **Sample Emergent Routine**

##### **Monday:**

**ABC:** Track ABCs & find letter; Introduce new letters (picture or object sort);

**COW:** Memorize & track new poem;

**PA:** Do read-aloud & then oral practice with target skill, e.g., listening for rhyme

##### **Tuesday:**

**ABC:** Font sort; glue & label; handwriting

**COW:** Reread poem; Count words in lines

**PA:** oral practice with target skill

##### **Wednesday:**

**ABC:** Track ABC’s & find sound; letter hunt in familiar text; speed write letters

**COW:** Memorize & track new poem/book

**PA:** oral practice with target skill

##### **Thursday:**

**ABC:** Buddy sort; Frame sentence writing

**COW:** Reread text. Cut up sentences & find words.

**PA:** oral practice with target skill

##### **Friday:**

**ABC:** Play ABC game & assess taught letters

**COW:** Reread & track texts. Match sentence strip to pocket chart version.

**PA:** oral practice with target skill

### **Handy Materials for Letter Name Spellers**

- Word Banks
- Sight word routine
- Word finders
- Decodable texts to apply taught features
- Sorting mat & dictated sentence mat
- Picture & word sort templates (2-3 columns)
- Elkonin boxes (onset rime & phoneme)
- Letter tiles, magnetic letters for building words (Push & Say It)
- Draw & label
- Flip books & spins
- Highlighters, highlighter tape, and Wikki sticks for word hunts & writing sorts

#### **Sample LN Routine**

Mon: Push & Say It (new feature)  
Introduce features with pix/word sort. Writing sort

Tues: Buddy sort; Harvest for word bank; Draw & label

Wed.: Word hunts; Review word banks; writing sort

Thurs: Speed sort & dictated sentences

Fri: Games and assessment

### **Handy Materials for Within Word Pattern Spellers**

- Sorting mats & dictated sentence mat
- Word sort templates (3-4 columns)
- Word maps (vocabulary)
- "If I know \_\_\_ then I also know \_\_\_"
- Elkonin boxes (phoneme)
- Word Wallets & blank letter tiles to build words
- Stopwatch for speed sorts

#### **Sample WWP Routine**

Mon: Introduce features with pix/word sort. Writing sort

Tues: Buddy sort; Word wallets or speed reads

Wed.: Word hunts; If I know \_\_\_, then I also know....

Thurs: Speed sort & dictated sentences

Fri: Games and assessment

## **Blank Gameboards**

- Bingo
- Tic Tac Toe
- Four in a Row
- Slam It

## **Uses for dry erase board:**

- Dictated sentences
- Writing words
- Quick writes of letters, letter sounds, features, or sight words
- Spell a word, erase 1-2 letters to make new words...
- If I know \_\_\_, then I also know...
- Recording word hunts
- Recording answers to writing-based sort games
- Other ideas:**

## **Uses for post-its:**

- Record word hunt words
- Mark place in text where find a specific sight word or feature
- Match sight words on post-its to COW sentence strips
- Write words on several and sort them
- Place 2 different colored post-its side by side with onset & rime (e.g., /c/ and /at/) and practice blending & segmenting sounds.
- Mask words in shared reading texts that you want students to decode.
- Other ideas:**

## **Keeping word study engaging for students (and teachers!). Try using:**

- Wikki sticks
- highlighter tape for word hunts
- Erasable highlighters for writing sorts (students can highlight and erase features)
- magnetic letters/burner covers or small metal lunch boxes (lid makes a great surface for building words)
- water pens (mailing section of office supply stores) and chalkboards
- variety of papers or writing instruments for sorts and dictated sentences
- Hard plastic plates and Expo 2 dry erase markers. Dryer sheets or old socks are convenient erasers.
- Plastic blow-up beach balls: write features on each section and give it a toss.
- Other ideas:**