

Phonics and Fluency Make-and-Take Extension Activities

VSRA Conference
March 13, 2008

Section 1: Sorting Mats



Purpose:

- Management tool for teachers and students during picture and word sorting activities
- A way to motivate struggling readers and keep them actively engaged during sorting activities.

Using Sorting Mats

- Whole Group Sorts
- Buddy Sorts
 - ✓ Use during Literacy Workstations
- Individual Sorts
 - ✓ Use during Literacy Workstations
- Writing Sort
 - ✓ Laminate sorting mats , students write words on the mats with wipe-off marker or...
 - ✓ Write words on sticky notes and sort words on the mats.
- Word Hunts
 - Find words with specific features in a text, write the words on sticky notes and then sort the words on the sorting mat.

Ideas for Sorting Mats

- **Featured Sorting Mats**

- Create sorting mats that are specific to the features being studied.
- Examples: Pigs on a Mat (Short Vowel Sort), French Fry Sort (r-blends), Pop the Popcorn (short o word families)

- **Seasonal Sorting Mats**

- Fall: Apple Basket Sorting Mats
- Winter: Snowman Sorting Mats
- Spring: Flower Sorting Mats
- Summer: Sand Bucket Sorting Mats

- **Generic Sorting Mats**

- Sorting Roadways
- Feed the Alien Sorting Mats

- **Unit-Based Sorting Mats**

- Out of this World Sorting Mats (space unit)
- Pyramid Sorting Mats (Egypt unit)

Making More Sorting Mats

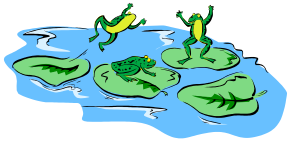
- File Folders
- Possible material for sorting “headers”
 - computer graphics
 - die-cuts
 - shaped note-pads
 - stickers

Section 2: Literacy Games

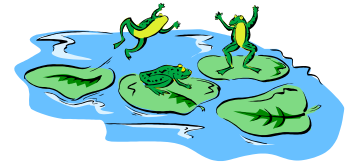


Purpose:

- Students need opportunities to practice reading and writing words from their phonics instruction.
- Literacy games provide students with multiple opportunities to review phonics/word study features and words.
- The goal is for students to achieve automatic word recognition with these words.



Leapin' Lilly Pads



Types of Playing Cards:

- Phonics/Word Study feature cards
 - Teacher created word cards or word cards from the student's individual sorts
- High-Frequency word cards

Game Variations:

- Read and Sort Words
- Write and Sort Words
- Put Them Back
 - Start by dealing the word cards to students. Roll die, read appropriate number of words and put word cards into "group pile." First student to get rid of all his/her word cards wins,
- Race the Timer
 - Play the game as usual; however, students try to read all the word cards before the time goes off.
- Blank gameboard and features
 - Write features on blank gameboard, read a word card and move to the correct feature on the gameboard.

Shop 'Til You Drop



Use the blank game board to create...

- Sorting Games (using other features)
- Writing Games (cut-n-paste pictures or insert graphics)
- Reading Games (with numbers on the game board)
- Syllable Counting Games (phonological awareness)
 - Move one space on the game board for each syllable in the word
- Laminated Game Boards (easy to change features to differentiate instruction)

Section 3: High Frequency Words



Purpose:

Provide students with extended practice of “high-frequency words” with the goal of reaching automaticity.

Popper Words



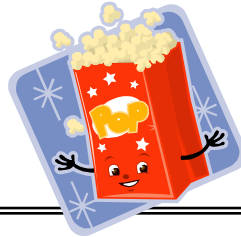
- “Pop the Popcorn”
 - Put popcorn pieces in a pile – read the word card and then “pop” it into the popcorn bag.
- “Eat the Popcorn”
 - Start with all the popcorn pieces in the bag. One student reaches his/her hand into the bag, pulls out a word, reads the word and “eats the popcorn” by putting it into his/her own popcorn pile.
- Race the Clock
 - Try to read all the word cards in the pile before the sand timer finishes.
- “Beat the Timer”
 - Keep a daily record of the “time” it takes students to read through the popcorn word cards each day. Each day, try to beat the time from the previous day.
- Play Concentration with word cards
 - Write the word pairs on popcorn pieces (one set on white popcorn and one set on yellow popcorn). Play concentration, trying to match the white popcorn word card to the yellow popcorn word card.

Popper Words (continued)



- **Pick-the-Popcorn, Find-the-Word, Read-the-Sentence**
 - Students first pick a popcorn word from the pile, then find the word in the text, and finally read the sentence with the word in it. Note: Be careful not to spend too much time working on high frequency words in isolation. It is very important to connect high-frequency words to text.
- **Slapjack**
 - Place the card on the table – the first one to “slap” the word and read it correctly gets to keep the word.
- **Popcorn Sentences**
 - Use the “popper words” to build sentences.

Motivating Students with Popper Words



- Set “high-frequency” word goals (e.g., 20 words)
- Once students meet a goal, have a popcorn party
- Create a “popper word” bulletin board – let students graph number of known popper words

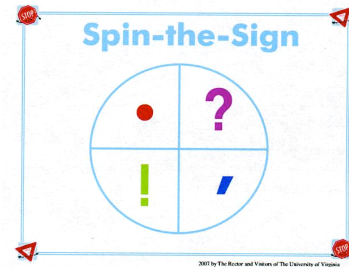
Section 4: Fluency



Purpose of Activities:

- Provide extended practice with punctuation and other typographical marks that affect the author's message.
- Provide additional opportunities to practice reading “small chunks” of text fluently.

Spin-the-Sign



Spin-the-Sign can be used with a variety of texts including:

- Poems
- “Little Readers”
- Basal Stories
- Text Copies
- Reader’s Theater Scripts

Find the “Sign”

- Highlighter Tape
- Highlighters
- Pointers
- Word Finders
- “Wiki Stix”

Please note: When using the “Spin-the-Sign” activity, students can use any of the materials listed above to “mark” the punctuation in the text. For example, if a student spins an exclamation point, he or she could mark an exclamation point in a text with highlighter tape. After finding the sign in the text and highlighting it with the highlighter tape, the student should then practice reading the sentence with proper expression.