



## Homework

- \*Sorting activities
- \*Application of target words
- \*Explanation of sorts

Homework will include sorting activities, and students may sometimes use target words in sentences and stories. As you help your child at home, remember to focus on understanding and explaining the sorts, as well as spelling the words correctly. When we do this, students learn to apply the patterns to new words. For example, as students learn to spell sick and sock, they can apply the spelling patterns to spell brick and blocked.



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## Assessments

Teachers will use a combination of informal and formal assessments. Students will be expected to sort and spell the words correctly, as well as explain the sort. Occasionally, assessments may include new words that fit the patterns being studied. Keep in mind that instruction and assessment will be based upon the needs of the group, so the dates for spelling tests will vary. They may **not** always be on Fridays.



## Word Study Benefits

- Systematic, developmental study of words
- Individualized instruction
- Integration of phonemic awareness, phonics, and vocabulary instruction
- Prevention of the negative cycle of memorizing and forgetting
- Generalization of learned patterns to the spelling of unknown words
- Increased spelling accuracy in writing
- Enhanced fluency in reading and writing.

# Word Study

## A Parent's Guide

*“The purpose of word study is not to teach students how to sound out words, but rather, to be able to identify word parts in order to facilitate quick and accurate decoding and comprehension.”*

*Dr. Bev Tyner*





## Developmental Stages of Spelling

- \*Beginning sounds (d may stand for dog)
- \*Beginning and ending sounds
- \*Beginning middle and ending sounds
- \*Letter patterns (long vowel/silent e)
- \*Word parts-prefixes and suffixes to build meaning of words
- \*Vocabulary-focus on using root and base words. (centi or cent means hundred in century, centimeter and percent)

*"I seek words, I chase after them. When I write I'm trying to put the most beautiful words in the world down on paper."*

*Cynthia Rylant*

## Word Study

Word study is a developmental approach to teaching spelling and vocabulary. Unlike whole class spelling lists, the word study approach supports each student within his/her developmental process of learning to spell. Students are taught in small groups, and as they are ready, they explore letters, sounds, patterns, and meanings of words. They also begin to apply what they've learned to new words. This is different from memorizing a weekly list of words and later forgetting them. Word study helps children to increase accuracy and fluency in both reading and writing.

*"I hear—I forget, I see—I learn,  
I do—I understand."*

*Gennady V. Oster*

## Word Study Groups

- \* Word study instruction usually takes place within reading groups.
- \* Teachers use assessment data, students' writing, and classroom observations to form groups.
- \* Each group has a different word list based on the needs of students within the group.
- \* Throughout the school year, groups will change, as students' spelling knowledge progresses.



## Classroom Instruction

- \*New words are introduced based on teachers' formal and informal assessments.
- \*New words and assessments will vary depending on needs of group. Assessments may occur on any day of the week.
- \*Word study reinforcement activities will enhance comprehension and understanding of spelling features.