

Dear Parents,

The students have started a new word study program that we will be using for spelling. Students were assessed with a baseline pre-test to help determine what type of speller each student was. From there, students were placed in groups that are specific to their spelling development. This will help them become even better spellers in their writing and it will also transfer over to their reading. There are multiple spelling groups within our classroom so not all students will have the same list of words each week. The activities for spelling words will be the same for all students, only the words will be different.

Students will have a sheet of paper with their spelling words on it. This sheet is to stay at home; we have an identical one at school to use during the day. Students will cut out the words (just like we do in class) at the beginning of the week for homework. The words should be stored in a safe place (Ziploc bag, envelope, jar, etc.) Students will then use those words and practice by doing different sorts of activities. Here is a list of activities and instructions on how these activities can be performed once the words have been cut out. Just like before, nothing formal needs to be turned in but it is expected that the spelling words are being practiced at home nightly. An assessment will be given on Friday based on a sampling of words.

Activities and Sorts

As students are practicing the words by performing the activities, make sure they are reading and spelling all of the words to help with understanding and familiarity. When doing the activities and sorts, ask why they placed the words where they did and have them explain their thinking.

Skill Sort - This sort should be done at the beginning of the week after the words are cut out. Each week the spelling list will focus on one skill. For example, this skill may be a beginning letter in words, ending sounds, short or long vowels, etc. The skill of the words will be the headers for the sort and the words will be placed under each header. Practice this sort so students are familiar with the skill of the week and the words for the week.

Concept Sort - A concept sort is when you take the spelling words and place them into groups based on the meaning of the word. Multiple headings can be made for the list of words and there can even be an odd ball heading for the words that don't have a fit.

Example: dogs, trees, cats, pencils, cups, flowers

<u>Animals</u>	<u>Other Things</u>	or	<u>Inside</u>	<u>Outside</u>	<u>Both</u>
dogs	trees		cups	flowers	cats
cats	flowers		pencils	trees	dogs
	cups				
	pencils				

Speed Sort - A speed sort is when you sort the words by the skill of the week while being timed. Students are timed and this sort can be done multiple times to see if the time gets shorter as more sorts are done. You can count to see how long it takes, use a clock, or a stopwatch. (www.online-stopwatch.com is a free stop watch website)

Writing Sort - This sort is done by writing the spelling words for each category instead of just moving the cards around. Any headers can be used for the sort and the spelling words can be handwritten under each heading.

Word Hunt - Students can use old magazines, newspapers, or letters to find other words that match the skill of the week. For example, if the skill is looking for words that start with the letter "r," then with permission, students can cut out words that start with "r" and glue them on a piece of paper. If the skill is words that end in "-ed," then any words with that ending can be cut out and glued down. As an alternative, students can find the words and copy them on a sheet of paper instead of cutting them out.

Thank you for your support in your child's education! Please let me know if you have any questions.
Mrs. Taft ☺