

Summer Reading Activities



First Grade – Activity #3							
Title	Word Ladders						
Parent Information	<p>Word ladders help students manipulate letters and sounds to build new words one step at a time to make a final word. Clues are often provided to guide the letter/sound manipulation and provide an additional challenge.</p> <p>Providing opportunities for children to investigate and play with letters and sounds helps them build phonics skills and identify spelling patterns. This activity can be repeated often and is a fun and challenging way to engage your early reader.</p>						
Objective	Change and build new words one letter or sound at time						
Time	10-15 minutes						
Materials	Paper and pencil						
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide your child with a starting word at the bottom of a ladder (ex. cap). • Prompt your child to change one letter or sound at a time to make a new word for the next rungs of the ladder. Example: <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">sip</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">dip</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">dot</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">cot</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">cat</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">cap</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Write the word cap ○ Change the /p/ to /t/ (cat) ○ Change the /a/ to /o/ (cot) ○ Change the /c/ to /d/ (dot) ○ Change the /o/ to /i/ (dip) ○ Change the /d/ to /s/ (sip) • Challenge your child by providing clues to the next word instead of explicit directions. Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write the word cap • Change the last letter to make an animal with whiskers (cat) • Change the vowel to make a bed for camping (cot) • Change the first letter to make the mark for a period (dot) • Change the vowel to make what you can do with a chip (dip) • Change the first letter to make what you do with water (sip) • Encourage your child to read all the words going up the ladder. 	sip	dip	dot	cot	cat	cap
sip							
dip							
dot							
cot							
cat							
cap							

Summer Reading Activities



	First Grade – Activity #3
Additional Resources and Information	<u>Word Ladder Resources</u>