

Summer Reading Activities



	Second Grade – Activity #4								
Title	Word Sorts								
Parent Information	<p>Sorting helps children organize information, make meaning, and recognize similarities and differences. Early readers benefit from sorting words by spelling patterns, rhyme, syllables, or by meaning.</p> <p>Sorts can be open or closed. In an open sort, the child uses the provided words to create their own categories. In a closed sort, the adult identifies the categories for the child. Both are beneficial and fun for learning.</p>								
Objective	Sort words to identify patterns								
Time	10 – 15 minutes								
Materials	Word cards								
Procedures	<p>Identify a particular skill you are working on with your child such as sound discrimination for Long o spelled /ow/ as in the word low and the diphthong /ow/ as in the word cow.</p> <p>Build a set (14-20) of word cards that fit the categories. Words should not be in a particular order.</p> <p>For an open sort, provide the word cards that fit the skill. Give students 8-10 minutes to explore the words and sort them how they wish. When they are finished, ask them to describe their categories and how they sorted. Encourage them to find more than one way to sort. Support and provide feedback as needed.</p> <p>For a closed sort, provide a 2-Column chart with categories at the top. Have your child sort the words into the appropriate columns. When they are finished, encourage them to read the words in each category. Support and provide feedback as needed.</p> <p>Example words for sorting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /ow/ as in low: row, owe, crow, snow, blow, know, pillow, shadow • /ow/ as in cow: how, now, plow, town, owl, towel, brown, frown <table border="1"> <tr> <td>low /ow/</td><td>cow /ow/</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	low /ow/	cow /ow/						
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Additional Resources and Information	<p>Sorts do not have to be limited to two categories. Children can sort words into three or four categories depending on the skill your child is practicing (Ex. Sort words by Long a spelling patterns /a/, /a_e/, /ai/, or /ay/).</p> <p>Visit Words Their Way: Word Study in Action: Word Sorting</p> <p>The Literacy Bug: Word Sorts</p>