

Summer Reading Activities



	Third Grade – Activity #5
Title	Puzzle Word
Parent Information	Building and constructing words helps students apply letter/sound knowledge and develop word awareness skills. It also supports many literacy skills including spelling, writing, and vocabulary. Providing opportunities for children to investigate and play with words helps them identify and make sense of patterns. This activity can be repeated often and is a fun and challenging way to engage your reader.
Objective	Build words and unscramble the “puzzle word”
Time	10-15 minutes
Materials	Paper and pencil, word cards
Procedures	• Choose a multisyllabic word (ex. magnificent) that will be the “puzzle word”. Use vocabulary words from a text your child is reading or previously identified words from your child’s reading response journal. • Write the letters in a scrambled order on a piece of paper for your child (ex. f n g i m e c t a n i). Letter cards may also be used so your child can move and manipulate the letters if needed. • Ask your child to use the letters to make as many words as they can from the letters. • The words can vary in length and the letters can be reused to make new words (ex. am, an, if, in, it, ant, fit, man, tan, tin, tag, get, gain, cent, fine, mint, team, meat, faint, magnet, imagine, etc.). • The letters may not be used more than one time in a single word (ex. meet). • Encourage your child to find the final “puzzle word” that uses all the letters. • Challenge your child by setting a time limit or count and compare the number of words you can find each time.
Additional Resources and Information	• Play other games where students need to build words from a set of letters such as Boggle™ or Scrabble™. • Choose words that will provide practice with a variety of long vowel spellings, prefixes, suffixes, or compound words. • Offer opportunities for your child to be the teacher and come up with the “puzzle word” along with a master list of word options. Allow them to give you a “puzzle word” to figure out. Compare and discuss your word lists.