

Summer Reading Activities



	Second Grade – Activity #2
Title	Word Building and Word Ladders
Parent Information	<p>Phonics helps children understand the relationship between letters and sounds such as knowing the letters /c/ and /h/ when combined, represent the sound /ch/ as in <u>ch</u>ip or mu<u>ch</u>.</p> <p>Decoding (blending sounds to read) should be the number one strategy we teach our early readers and is a critical component to becoming a fluent reader. Word building helps children practice decoding and encoding (writing sounds to spell) by applying sound/spelling patterns. Children can use letter cards to build words or use a pencil and paper to write the words.</p> <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. These activities can be repeated often and are fun and challenging ways to engage your early reader.</p>
Objective	Use phonics to build, read, and write words
Time	10-15 minutes
Materials	Letter cards, paper, pencil, word bank
Procedures	<p>Word Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If using letter cards, provide the letters needed for the word set or provide paper and pencil. • Say the first word – hop. Say each individual sound - /h/ /o/ /p/. Blend the sounds slowly together to make the word – hop. Use the word in a sentence to support vocabulary (Ex. – I had to <u>hop</u> over the mud puddle.) • The child builds the word using the provided letter cards or writes the word and reads it aloud. • Explain that now you will change the word by adding, changing, or removing a sound. Repeat the procedures above (Ex. – Now change hop to hope, /h/ /ō/ /p/, hope, We can <u>hope</u> that we don't get wet.). • The child builds the new word using letter cards or writes the new word under the first to begin a list. • Continue changing sounds in the word to build a new word (Ex. hop, hope, hoping, hopping, shopping, shipping, etc.).

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	<p>Word Ladders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide your child with a starting word at the bottom of a ladder (ex. clue). • 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"> <tr><td>○ Write the word clue</td><td>grow</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Change the /c/ to /b/ (blue)</td><td>slow</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Change the /b/ to /g/ (glue)</td><td>glow</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Change the /ue/ to /ow/ (glow)</td><td>glue</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Change the /g/ to /s/ (slow)</td><td>blue</td></tr> <tr><td>○ Change the /sl/ to /gr/ (grow)</td><td>clue</td></tr> </table> • Challenge your child by providing clues to the next word instead of explicit directions. Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Write the word clue ○ Change the first letter to make a color word (blue) ○ Change the first letter to make something sticky (glue) ○ Change the vowel team (ue) to make a word that means light (glow) ○ Change the beginning blend (gl) to make the opposite of fast (slow) ○ Change the beginning blend (sl) to make something that plants do (grow) • Encourage your child to read all the words going up the ladder. 	○ Write the word clue	grow	○ Change the /c/ to /b/ (blue)	slow	○ Change the /b/ to /g/ (glue)	glow	○ Change the /ue/ to /ow/ (glow)	glue	○ Change the /g/ to /s/ (slow)	blue	○ Change the /sl/ to /gr/ (grow)	clue
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Additional Resources and Information	<p><u>Word Ladder Resources</u></p> <p>Visit Reading Rockets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Phonics and Decoding</u> <p>Visit Scholastic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Understanding Phonics</u> 												