

Dear Families,

Parents often ask how they can support the development of spelling skills at home. Research has shown that memorization of word lists often does not transfer to a student's everyday writing, so it can be challenging to create meaningful spelling "homework". We are providing these materials to assist you with supporting your child's spelling development at home. Our goal is for students to learn skills and strategies that will help them spell or read any word, rather than memorizing words in isolation. Students who can internalize basic spelling patterns can make connections among words in many ways. This type of practice allows students to generate their own word lists, leading to increased engagement and motivation. We hope that you find these materials to be helpful when working with your child at home!

How to use these materials to help your child at home:

1. Using your child's grade-appropriate list of "chunks", select one chunk at a time to work with. Provide your child with the chunk and discuss the sound it makes.
2. Using the "Sound Board for Beginning Consonants" and the recording sheet, have your child try out the chunk with each of the beginning sounds, testing to see if it makes a "real" word. If it makes a word, they write that word in the first column on the recording sheet. If you choose to print and cut the "chunk strips", they can be placed on the sound board right next to the onset (beginning) to see if a word is created.
3. Using the "Sound Board for Beginning Blends and Digraphs", complete the same process and record the "real" words in the center column.
4. Putting aside the sound board, have your child brainstorm a list of "BIG WORDS" that have the chunk anywhere in them.
5. Ask your child to read the words they generated. This is the time to discuss any misspelled words (for example "rane" for "rain") or words that were listed that aren't "real".
6. Now that your child has a list of words for the chosen "chunk", it's up to you to do something fun with them! Here are some things your child could do with their words:
 - create a poster for each chunk to hang around the house
 - turn them into a word search puzzle using a site like puzzlemaker.com
 - write a few sentences using some of the words
 - build some of the words with magnetic letters
 - type them on the computer
 - make them with letter stamps
 - write the words with a white crayon and use watercolor paint to make them "appear"

Focusing on just one "chunk" per week will make a positive impact on your child's spelling. Please let us know if you have any questions. Happy spelling!

Mrs. Atilho and Mrs. Moreno

*adapted from "Chunk Spelling" by Second Story Window, www.secondstorywindow.net