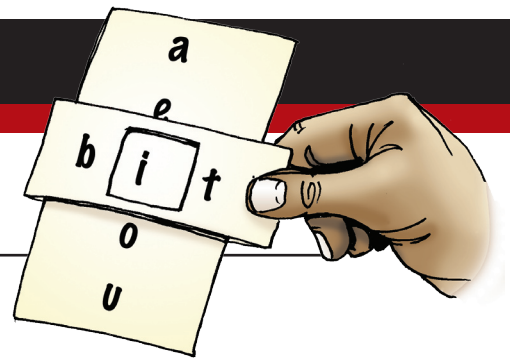


Teaching Tip



ACTIVITY: **Word Slides**

PURPOSE: This is a great kinesthetic/tactile activity to help students improve phonics and decoding skills.

In the activity, students

- Work on word patterns by changing the initial letter sound in a word to create a new word, and
- Practice phonics by changing the vowel in a word to create a new word.

THEORY: In *Applying Research in Reading Instruction for Adults*, Susan McShane notes that explicit, systematic phonics instruction is most effective for beginning readers. One effective systematic approach is to teach “phonics by analogy” (McShane, 2005). Students use parts of words they already know to identify unfamiliar words. An example is the addition of an initial sound to a known word pattern (such as -at) to form a new word.

Further Reading?

Susan McShane, *Applying Research in Reading Instruction for Adults: First Steps for Teachers* (Washington, DC: NIFL, 2005).

Steps for Recognizing Word Patterns

1. Fold a 4”x 6” index card in half and tape the edges opposite the fold together.
2. Print a word pattern on the right hand side of the card.
3. Cut a hole for the missing initial sound.
4. Print several initial consonants that will form real words on a card that can be inserted into the folded index card.
5. Slowly pull the card through. As each new consonant appears in the window, ask the student to read the new word.

Steps for Recognizing Vowel Sounds

1. Fold a 4”x 6” index card in half and tape the edges opposite the fold together.
2. Print on each side the beginning and ending letter(s) of a word that could be completed with any of several short vowel sounds.
3. Cut a hole in the middle for the missing vowel sound.
4. Print the five vowels on a card that can be inserted into the folded index card.
5. Slowly pull the card through. As each new vowel appears in the window, ask the student to read the new word.
6. Sometimes the new word will be a nonsense word. It can be helpful for a student to practice his or her decoding skills by decoding nonsense words. However, if you think the nonsense words will confuse the student, simply skip over them.

Here are some word patterns you might use for this activity.

ack

back

black

crack

pack

track

each

bleach

peach

preach

reach

teach

ind

bind

blind

find

kind

mind

old

cold

gold

hold

scold

sold

uck

buck

duck

luck

struck

truck