

Words Their Way Home Activities

Remember: The words that your child brings home are not intended to be memorized for a test. Instead, help them sort and categorize the word cards based on the headings or key words (such as CVC, -ion, or oddballs). The headings are written in bold. Usually there are words that are also in bold print. These bolded words are an example of the type of words that fit under a heading.

Word Sort: Ask your child to cut the words apart and sort them into categories, like they have done at school. Your son should read each word aloud during this activity (often a word focus or sort might be determined by the sound of the spelling pattern).

Ask your son to share with you why the words are sorted in a particular way. Have they noticed any rules or patterns?

Blind sort: Put down the headings to establish categories. Then, shuffle the remaining word cards. Call each word out loud without showing the card to your child. Ask your child to show you which category it fits. Next, show your student the word and ask them to put it under the correct category.

Speed sort: Have your child set up the headings and shuffle their words. Start a timer and have your child sort their word cards as quickly as they can. When they are done, check to make sure the words are sorted correctly. Encourage your child to “beat” their time while staying accurate with their sorts. **Accuracy and understanding (rather than speed)** are the goals, so if this speed sort is stressful, please skip this activity.

Writing sort: Has your son internalized the spelling pattern or focus? As you call out the words in random order, have your child write them down under the appropriate headings. Consider throwing in a few extra words that fit the pattern.

Word hunt: Sometimes students don’t automatically see the relationship between spelling words and reading words. Have your student hunt through their reading and writing for words that are additional examples of the sound, pattern, or meaning unit they are studying. For example, if one of their headings is “short a ” words, have them look for and notice other short a words. You may want to work with your child and take turns finding words that fit their sorts.

Extensions:

- Build a dictionary with the words. Your son could glue the words into a notebook or binder to create their own dictionary.
- Scramble the letter of the words and see if your son can identify the scrambled words.
- Play “hangman” with the word study words.
- Ask your child to say more words that would fit under the headings. Make it a game and take turns saying the words.
- Vocabulary development is essential to growth in reading and writing. Talk about the meaning of the words in the sort. Try and use the word in a sentence.