

Sorting by Sound

What is "Sorting by Sound" and why is it important?

"Sorting by Sound" (Johnston, Juel, & Invernizzi, 1995) is an activity that helps your child identify beginning and ending sounds in words. This is an important step in the reading process because your child is learning to connect letters with specific sounds.

How can I "Sort by Sound" with my child?

Begin this activity by choosing clearly different letters such as "Mm" and "Ss." Then, choose pictures to go with each sound. Place the selected picture next to its matching letter. For example, on the worksheet place the picture of the mouse under the "Mm" and the picture of the sun under the "Ss." Have your child choose a picture card from the attached collection. Ask your child questions that will help him decide how the word begins. "Does the monkey card begin like mouse, or does it begin like sun? Good! Monkey does start like mouse, so place the monkey card under the Mm."

Continue sorting the rest of the pictures with your child. Have your child repeat the name of the picture, the name of the letter, and the letter sounds as you are sorting. "This is a picture of a snake. It starts with the letter "Ss" and it makes the "ssssss" sound."

After sorting is completed, have your child pick up the pictures, alternating the pictures representing the different beginning sounds. Have your child repeat the name of the picture, the beginning letter, and the sound it represents.

After your child is very comfortable with beginning sounds, encourage your child to use the same procedure to sort words by ending sounds. "Does the word bed end like lid or does it end like moon?"

Practice sorting by sound with your child, using both beginning and ending sounds. By practicing with your child, you are helping him to become a skilled reader.

Sorting by Sound (Sort the attached pictures under the appropriate column.)

Letter:

Letter:

Pictures:

Picture

Consonants and Vowels

- B butterfly, bed, bug, basket, balloon
- C castle, candle, carrot, comb, camel, city, cents, cereal, celery, cement truck
- D dinosaur, dog, desk, duck, daffodil
- F fire truck, fox, fountain, fish, fence
- G gate, game, garbage, gorilla, garage
- H hen, horn, hammer, harp, horse
- J jacks, jack-o-lantern, jar, jet, jacket
- K kangaroo, kettle, key, kite, king
- L lantern, leaf, ladybug, lion, light bulb
- M mouse, mittens, monkey, moon, mop
- N nickel, nails, nuts, needle, nest
- P present, pitcher, pencil, pin, pig
- Q quail, queen, quilt, quarter
- R rainbow, rabbit, rocket, rooster, ruler
- S sun, sink, see saw, star, socks
- T towel, toaster, toothbrush, tulip, top
- V vegetables, vase, violin, vacuum, vine
- W witch, walrus, window, wagon, windmill
- X xylophone, x-ray machine, x-ray, xerox machine
- Y yarn, yolk, yak, yam, yo-yo, yardstick
- Z zipper, zero, zeppelin, zigzag, zebra
-
- A apple, ant, alligator, anchor, alphabet, cat
- E elephant, eggs, eggplant, envelope, expressway, men
- I igloo, insect, crib, iguana, inch, indian
- O octopus, octagon, ocelot, ox bow, ox, box
- U umbrella, ugly fruit, umpire, Uncle Sam, umbra, sun

Blends and Digraphs

SH sheep, shoes, shrimp, shovel, shirt
CH chick, chair, chalk, cherries, church
WH wheel, wheelbarrow, whale, whiskers, whistle
TH thistle, thimble, thirty, thermometer, thumbtack

SC scarecrow, scale, scooter, scarf, scepter
SK skirt, skates, skunk, skeleton, skis
SL sled, slide, sleep, slicker, sloth
SN snake, snowman, snowflake, sneaker, snail
SP spade, spider, spoon, spindle, sponge
SW swing, sword, swim, sweater, swan

BR broom, bridge, brook, brush, bride
CR crab, crow, crayons, crocodile, cream
DR drum, dragon, dress, dragonfly, drill
FR frog, fruit, frame, french fries, fringe
GR grasshopper, grass, grapes, graph, grate
TR tricycle, truck, trombone, train, tree

BL blocks, blouse, blender, blanket, blimp
CL clock, clarinet, cloud, clip, clown
FL flower, fly, flag, flute, flame
GL glass, glasses, globe, gloves, glue

SCR scrod, scroll, scribble, screen, screw
SCH school, schnauzer, schoolteacher, scholar, schooner
SQU squid, squirrel, square, squash, squint
SPL splash, splinter, splat, splint, splotchy
SPR sprinkler, sprinkles, sprinter, spring, sprawl
STR stroller, straw, strawberries, string, stream
THR three, thread, throw, throne, throat