

Hearing and Recording Sounds in Words

Writing What You Hear

To learn how to write, children have to listen for sounds and then write the letters that make those sounds. It helps if they already know the sound that each letter of the alphabet makes. When they hear a word, they have to listen for the sounds of all the letters and write them down. Teachers call this Hearing and Recording Sounds in Words.

When they are learning, children might make mistakes because some letters stand for different sounds. For example, when a child hears the word, "class" he might write down "klas." It will take time for your child to learn how to spell correctly. Reading books out loud with your child so that he sees and hears words at the same time will help him learn that written words make sounds. Helping him write down what sounds he hears in the words is a good way to teach him how to write.

The following games will help your child listen for sounds in letters and words and then practice writing down what he hears.

Turtle Talk

Turtles are very slow animals. In this activity, you and your child can have fun pretending to talk like turtles, v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y. To do this, say a word very slowly by stretching out each sound. Then see if your child can guess what word you are saying. This may take some practice, but will help your child learn how to hear the many sounds that are in words. Once your child guesses the word that you are saying, say another word.

Here are some examples of words that you can try. Tell your child you are going to say a word and see if she can guess it.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| aaaaaa-nnnnnn-tttttt | (ant) |
| sssss-nnnnn-aaaaa-kkkkk | (snake) |
| ffffff-l-l-l-l-l-yyyyy | (fly) |
| hhhhh-ooooorrrr-sssss | (horse) |
| mmmm-ooooo-nnnnn-eeeeee | (money) |
| lllll-aaaaaa-kkkkkk | (lake) |
| wwwww-aaaaaa-l-l-l-l-l | (wall) |

When your child gets good at this game, try saying two words at a time and see if she can guess the words. If your child gets really good at guessing the words that you are saying to her, try saying a whole sentence in turtle talk. Have your child take a turn being the turtle and see if she can think of a word and say it very slowly. Then you try to guess what she is saying.



Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Can You Write This Letter?

You will need the sheets, "Can You Write This Letter" to play this game. The sheets have the letters of the alphabet and how each letter sounds in a word. Some letters have only one sound and others have two. The words are there just to help you say the sound of the letter, such as "ah" as in "apple."



Give your child a piece of paper and a pencil. Tell him that you are going to say a sound, and he gets to write down the letter that makes the sound.

Say one sound to your child, such as "b" as it sounds in the word "ball." Be sure that you don't say the letter itself - just the sound it makes (kind of a "bu" sound). See if he can write down "b." If he has trouble, it's ok to tell him what letter makes the "bu" sound. Then try another sound and see if he can write it down. If he still has a hard time, try the sound for the first letter in his name, such as "mmm" for Monte. See if he can write down the "M."

I Can Write!

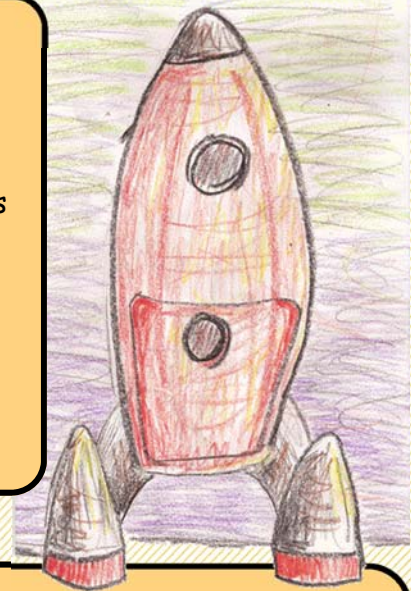
There are two sheets for this activity—one for you and the other for your child. In this activity, you will say words for your child to write. The words form sentences. There are five in all. Get your child to try to write each word even if she doesn't know how to spell it. After your child has written the words for the first sentence, see if she can read it. Then, go on to the other sentences.



You can make up other words and sentences for your child to write down. Have fun with this activity!

Best Friends on a Spaceship

Ask your child to draw a picture of a spaceship on a paper bag or a big piece of paper. Then ask, "If we were going into outer space on this spaceship, which of your friends would you like to have with you? Who is the first friend you want on the spaceship?" Have your child say the friend's name. Repeat it, and ask your child to write that name on the spaceship. For example, if your child says, "Tim," say, "Oh, you want Tim to go? Write Tim inside the spaceship. Who else?" If your child needs help, ask him to say the name slowly and write down the letters that he hears. Be sure to have him write his own name on the spaceship.



My Favorite Foods

Give your child the piece of paper with My Favorite Foods written at the top. Ask your child to tell you what her favorite foods are. If your child is having a hard time thinking of her favorite foods, mention some foods that you think she likes. When she says a food that she likes, repeat it back to her, saying the sounds of the word slowly. Ask her to write the food down on her list. You may have to repeat the food several times and ask her to listen to the sounds of the letters as she tries to write them down.

When she has written one down, ask her if she has any other favorite foods. Repeat this process for any food that she wants to add to her list.

Don't worry if your child's spelling is not perfect. She will learn how to spell as she gets better at writing.

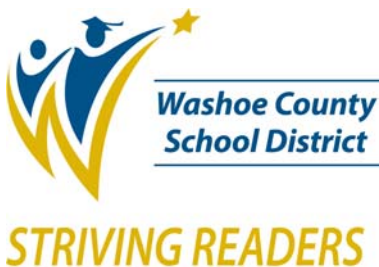


Watch Families Doing Activities

To see families doing these activities, please go to: www.washoestrivingreaders.com. Next, click on the **Community and Families** tab at the top of the page then select **Family Literacy Videos** from the drop down menu. Finally, scroll down the page and click on the video and tip sheet that fits your family's needs.

More Ideas

If you and your child enjoy these activities, tell your child's teacher. The teacher may have more ideas to share for learning fun at home. If your child is having a hard time with these activities, you also can talk to your child's teacher. There may be another tip sheet or other activities to help.



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Can You Write This Letter?

Say just the sound the letter makes and see if your child can write the letter. Remember, some are copycat letters, like "c" that copies "k" and "s" or "g" that sometimes copies "j." Your child will probably write down the letter that is being copied, and that is fine.

| <u>Letter</u> | <u>Sound #1</u> | <u>Sound #2</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Aa | say "a" as in apple | say "a" as in cake |
| Bb | say "b" as in ball | |
| Cc | say "k" as in car | say "s" as in cell |
| Dd | say "d" as in dog | |
| Ee | say "e" as in egg | say "e" as in eagle |
| Ff | say "f" as in fox | |
| Gg | say "g" as in grapes | say "j" as in gym |
| Hh | say "h" as in hat | |
| Ii | say "i" as in "in" | say "i" as in ice |
| Jj | say "j" as in jam | |
| Kk | say "k" as in key | |

Can You Write This Letter?

| | | |
|----|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ll | say "l" as in leaf | |
| Mm | say "m" as in mouse | |
| Nn | say "n" as in nest | |
| Oo | say "o" as in on | say "o" as in oatmeal |
| Pp | say "p" as in plate | |
| Qq | say "q" as in queen | |
| Rr | say "r" as in rock | |
| Ss | say "s" as in sun | |
| Tt | say "t" as in train | |
| Uu | say "u" as in umbrella | say "u" as in uniform |
| Vv | say "v" as in violin | |
| Ww | say "w" as in wall | |
| Xx | say "x" as in x-ray | say "z" as in xylophone |
| Yy | say "y" as in yo yo | |
| Zz | say "z" as in zebra | |

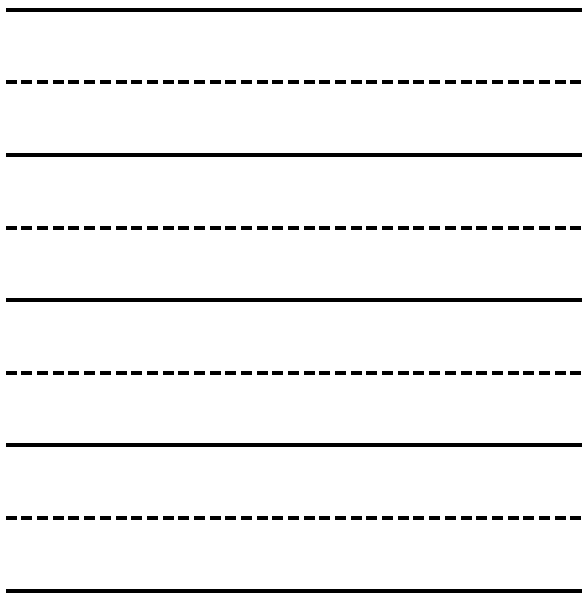
I Can Write!

Child's Sheet

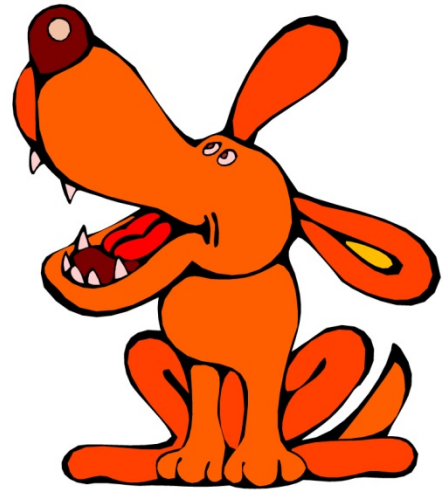
#1

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are five sets of these lines.



[illegible]

#4



#5



I Can Write!

Parent's Sheet

Say the word in each row and ask your child to write it on her sheet. If she has trouble, say the word slowly, helping her listen for the sounds that the letters make.

#1

A

cat

is

in

a

hat



#2

A

frog

sat

on

a

dog



#3

The

pig

likes

corn



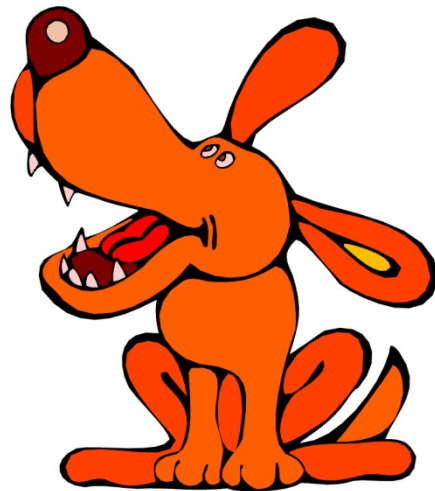
#4

The

dog

says

woof



#5

A

zebra

jumps

rope



My Favorite Foods
