

Dear Families,

Words Their Way is a word study program that further individualizes the way students learn to spell words. It is a hands-on approach to practice spelling patterns in words. It allows students to manipulate words and/or pictures into different categories. This sorting process helps students analyze and examine, compare and contrast, and differentiate the patterns in words. This hands-on approach not only motivates students to practice spelling words, but it also helps students internalize the spelling patterns in words for the future. The students were administered a spelling inventory that helped determine at which spelling stage they were performing. From there, I was able to place them into small groups of students to which developmentally appropriate lessons and word lists will be administered.

Your child will be bringing home a collection of spelling words weekly that have been introduced in class. During the week your child is expected to complete different activities to ensure that these words, and the spelling principles they represent, are mastered. These activities have been modeled and practiced in school, so your child can teach you how to do them. **Use the top sheet with the word lists on front and back to cut up for sorting.**

**Activity 1:** Remind your child to sort the words into categories like the ones we did in school. Your child should read each word aloud during this activity. Ask your child to explain to you why the words are sorted in a particular way---what does the sort reveal about spelling in general? Ask your child to sort them a second time as fast as possible. You may want to time them.

**Activity 2:** Do a blind sort with your child. Lay down a word from each category as a header, and then read the rest of the words aloud. Your child must indicate where the word goes without seeing it. Lay it down, and let your child move it if he or she is wrong. Repeat if your child makes more than one error.

**Activity 3:** Help your child in doing a word hunt, looking for words that have the same sound, pattern, or both in a book they have already read. Try to find two or three words for each category.

**Activity 4:** Improve fluency by doing a speed sort. Time your child to see how quickly he/she can sort the word cards.

**Activity 5:** Do a written word sort to prepare for the assessment. As you call out the words in a random order, your child should write them into categories. Call out any words your child misspells a second or even a third time. Repetition improves retention.

Thank you for your support! Together we can help your child make valuable progress.

Sincerely,

Heather Booska