

Word Sorts

Closed Word Sorts – The learner is provided the categories and specific attributes of each and then must try to match words to the correct categories.

Open Word Sorts –The learner must discern the common attributes while sorting words, describing the categories into which they sort words and the features they have in common.

Materials: Picture cards that represent high frequency words or words from the books the child is reading (MS Word clipart is a good source for pictures).

Activity:

1. Teacher selects two or three sets of picture cards representing beginning letter sounds that have been studied (ex., S, M, T).
2. Then fold a piece of paper into two or three columns and write a letter representing a beginning sound at the top of each column.
3. The student picks up one of the picture cards and the teacher says the name of the picture, elongating each sound.
4. The student writes the word in the column under the correct beginning sound.
5. Continue until finished with all of the picture cards.

Other ways to classify and sort words

- Words that start with the same (beginning blend, consonant cluster or onset)
- Words that end the same (rime)
- Words that rhyme
- Words that contain the same number of syllables
- Words that are the same part of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.)
- Words with prefixes or suffixes
- Words with long or short vowel sounds