

NLPS Learns: Word Work Resources

Setting Up Word Work in Your Classroom

Teaching Primary Word Work

Phonics and sight words must be explicitly taught and then students should be provided an opportunity to practice. The teaching of these sounds, words or patterns can take place during circle time, or through large or small group lessons.

Teachers can decide which words to work on based on ongoing assessment and the PARS and can choose words based the Fry word list, vocabulary from units of study, or the phonics continuum using assessment results to determine goals.



Teaching Intermediate Word Work

In the intermediate grades, word work can be done for ten minutes before transitioning to writing or reading to self (Sabo, n.d.). Word work may be an opportunity to a word study or practice vocabulary. It can also can provide an opportunity for students to add words that are often misspelled in their work to their personal word wall. Personal word walls can be glued to the inside cover of student journals, or writing folders/notebooks.

Students who have a strong understanding of spelling may go directly into writing, however having a word work option provides opportunities to differentiate for students who continue to require that practice.

Materials for Primary Word Work

Word Work practice can take many forms. Some sample materials are

- magnetic letters or stamps to build words
- printable or classroom games
 - blank game board for a variety of different sounds/words
 - memory game
- word wall (class and/or individual)
- dry erase boards
- wikki stix
- Clipboards to write the room
- old keyboards or keyboard printable
- digital resources

Materials for Intermediate Word Work

The practice of word work may be much shorter in intermediate and may be done as a warm up activity before writing time.

- personal word wall/word collector page
- classroom word wall
- reference materials such as a dictionary or computer

WORD COLLECTOR				
Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee
Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj
Kk	Ll	Mm	Nn	Oo
Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt
Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx/Yy	Zz