

Word Study Code

V = vowel

C = consonant

/ / = sound marks, focus on the sound rather than the actual letter(s)

Sorting = organizing words into groups based on similarities in their patterns or meaning

Oddballs = words that cannot be grouped into any of the categories, they do not follow the general pattern.

Sort 16 Short-e and Long-e (CVVC)

ĕ CVC	ēē CVVC	ēā CVVC
next	seem	eat
green	team	been

Word Study at Home

•Word Sorts

•**Say It**—Have your child read the word aloud.

•**Lay It**—Sort the words by laying them in categories according to their pattern.

•**Explain It**—Ask your child to explain why they are sorted this way.

•**Check It**—Check to make sure the sort is correct.

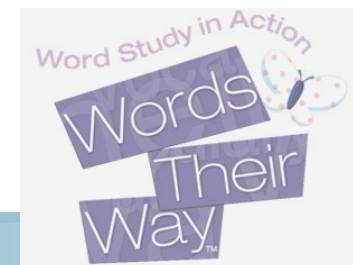
•Ask your child to sort them a second time as fast as possible.

•**Word Hunt**—Look for words in books/magazines that have the same sound or pattern.

•**Vocabulary**—Use each word in a complete sentence

Words Their Way

Words Their Way is a developmental spelling, phonics, and vocabulary program focused on word study. It is a hands-on approach to spelling and word knowledge and teaches students to discover the regularities, patterns, and conventions of the English language in order to read, write, and spell. It increases specific knowledge of individual words, including their spelling and meaning, allowing students to manipulate and sort words and/or pictures into different categories. This helps them to internalize the word pattern and be able to transfer it into their reading and writing.



WORD STUDY VS. TRADITIONAL Spelling

Research clearly indicates that memorization of lists of “spelling words” does not promote the development of spelling skills. With the traditional approach of “everyone gets the same list and tests on Friday”, many students who passed the spelling test were not able to transfer their knowledge to their writing.

Memorizing a list of words and getting 100% on weekly tests does not mean the student is a good speller. It may just mean that they are good at memorizing for a test.

WORD STUDY IN THE CLASSROOM

In the classroom, teachers encourage students to compare features in words. One method for doing this is sorting. When sorting, students use their word knowledge to separate examples that go together from those that don't. This allows students to make generalizations about words and transfer this knowledge to new words.

In addition to sorting in the classroom, students may also:

- Hunt for words in their reading and writing that fit the pattern.
- Keep a word study notebook to record the patterns being studied.
- Play games and activities to apply their word knowledge.

WORD STUDY ASSESSMENT

Teachers assess students' pattern knowledge rather than their ability to memorize single words. For example, a teacher may randomly assess students on 10 of the 20 words they studied and include additional words on the assessment that follow the pattern, even though they were not on the original list. This allows the teacher to see if students are able to transfer their knowledge of the pattern to unknown words.

