

Word Wall Activities

1. Word Sorts: Words are removed from the board and sorted in a variety of ways:

- first letter
- last letter
- vowel sound
- spelling pattern
- rhyming words
- silent letters (e.g. silent 'e')

2. Word Clues

The teacher selects a word on the word wall and gives the students four or five clues. The students write down a guess after each clue.

Clue 1 -- I'm thinking of a word with five letters. (Children write a word.)

Clue 2 -- It has two vowels. (Children write a word.)

Clue 3 -- One of the vowels is silent. (Children write a word.)

Clue 4 -- It begins with a 't'. (Children write a word and compare it to the answer.)

3. I Spy

The teacher selects a word from the wall by calling the first letter and the colored background. (e.g.) I spy 't' green. The children find the word under the 't' column that has a green background and pronounce it. The teacher could have children clap and spell the word if it is not well-known.

4. Rhyming words

The teacher tells the children to find the word that starts with a 't' and rhymes with 'bike.' Children could either write the word and call it out.

5. Cross-checking

Students must decide which wall word makes sense in the sentence and begins with the correct letter. The teacher writes a 'f' on the board and says, "The first word begins with 'f' and fits in the sentence, 'I like to play with my _____. (friend)"

6. Wordo

This is a variation of Bingo. Children select wall words to write on their grid. The teacher writes the words on index cards and calls them out one at a time. Children chant the spelling of each word and then cover it with a marker. The first one to complete a row wins.

7. Hangman

The teacher or student selects a wall word and writes a blank for each letter on the chalkboard. Other students take turns guessing a letter. If it is in the mystery word, the teacher or student writes in the letter. Children can then guess the word.

8. Finding the little word

The teacher asks the students to find all of the words that have a little word in them.