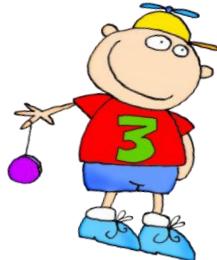


Word Walls



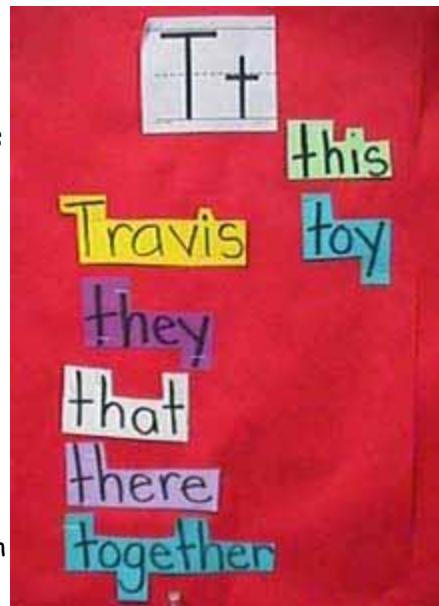
No home classroom should be without an interactive word wall. The power of a word wall is amazing. The key to a successful word wall is the word, "interactive."

Use your wall during Language Arts lessons, handwriting lessons or when introducing content vocabulary from Math History or Science lessons. Add words to your wall that are important to your family such as the names of pets and siblings as well vocabulary surrounding religious and/or seasonal activities.

The Word Wall should be:

- Large and separated by alphabet letter headings.
- Reachable to your child.
- Words should be written large with a black marker on colored index cards. Sight words are one color and names of family members are another color, etc.
- The words should be cut out around the letters to emphasize the shape of the word.

Start your wall by adding your child's name. Then add the names of siblings and pets. Spend a lot of time with the "name of the day." Try to learn as much as you can about sounds and letter chunks. For example, the name Chelsey is a way to talk about the "ch" sound. You can also find words within names. Justin has the word /just/ in it. You can talk about the shape of the letters in the name. All names start with a capital letter so all names begin with tall letters.



Once all your family's names are added, it's time to start mixing in sight words. Have your child place the new sight words on the word wall under the appropriate alphabet letter. Introduce 2-3 new sight words weekly to the wall.

Here's a simple weekly schedule:

Monday: Introduce the new words for the week. Chant and cheer for each new word. (See ideas below). Look for chunks. Compare new words to other words. Talk about sound patterns in the word and the shape of the word. Address words that break the rules. Let your child find the place the new words should go on the word wall. For example, the new word /who/ would go under the Ww heading on the wall.

Have your child write the new words into his or her own Word Wall notebook. Make this your handwriting lesson for the day. Lastly, read the new words that are on the wall

Tuesday- Friday: Chant and cheer for the new words and/or review words with an activity (see ideas below). On occasion just read the whole wall. Make a big deal about how smart your child is to know so many words. Don't make a big deal about words they don't know but make a mental note to come back and review missed words again.

You can create special word walls for a particular focus such as Math. For example, sum, total and "all together" are words that mean to add in most word problems.

Other Possible Special Word Walls:

Family names	Adding ing to words (any Phonics rules)	Math Vocabulary
Vivid Verbs	Holiday Vocabulary	Story Character names
Spelling Rules	Science Vocabulary	Religious/Church Vocabulary
Contractions	History Vocabulary	Rhyming Word Chunks

Ways to Chant and Cheer for New Word Wall Additions

Throw the Stars ~ Throw one hand at a time toward the ceiling for each letter.

Be the Letter (Body Language) ~ For "s" we slither down to the floor while saying "e-e-e-s-s-".

Flapping and Nodding ~ Pretend you're a bird and flap your wings and nod your head for each letter.

Funny Voices ~ Say the letters using a deep voice, a robot voice, a squeaky mouse voice, etc.

Stomping ~ Just stomp your feet for each letter.

Army style ~ March for letters and salute on the word

Clapping Syllables ~Just clap for each syllable

Explosion ~ Start by whispering the first letter and then get a little louder for each letter thereafter until it is time to EXPLODE by saying the whole word really loudly.

Marshmallow Clap ~ Almost clap but stop before your hand touch. Say each letter.

Hula~ Hands on hips, swivel, hands in air to say word

Jumping Jacks ~ One letter for each movement.

Toe Touches ~ Touch your toes for each letter.

BATTER UP ~ We get into the batting position and swing on each letter as we say it

SLOW ~Hold the sound of the letter or a few seconds like sit...s.....i.....t.....

Push-ups ~ or stomach crunches, bicep curls for each letter

Blowing Kisses ~ kiss for each letter and 2 hands kiss (extend both arms out and up) for the word

Pass a Ball or beanbag back and forth for each letter in the word.



Word Wall Activities to Review Current Words

Bang! ~All the sight words learned are put in a box. You and your child or siblings pull words out of the box and read them. If your child reads the word, he/she gets to keep it. If not read correctly, the word is returned to the box. If the word Bang! is pulled from the box, all the cards collected by that player must be returned to the box. The person with the greatest number of cards when the game ends is the winner.

Word Wall Bingo ~Create a bingo card with six blank spaces. Write one word wall word of their choice in each space. Then the words are removed from the wall, placed into a container, and pulled out one by one. If the word that is pulled out is on a child's Bingo card, that word may be covered with a marker. When the entire card is covered, your child can yell "BINGO!".

Word Wall Hopscotch~ Use chalk to make a hopscotch board outdoors. Write word wall words in the squares. Your child can then toss a bean bag onto the hopscotch board. He or she has to hop to the bean bag and say the word. If they say it correctly, they may pick up the bean bag and continue.

Word Wall Board Game ~ Make up one or more game boards or use boards from old games picked up at yard sales; use your own creativity. You say a word that your child should try to spell. If he/she spells the word correctly, he or she may move the number of spaces indicated on the dice. If your little one spells the word incorrectly, you can show it to your child for a few seconds, then hide it. Your child then again attempts to spell the word. You can do this game verbally as well, if writing letters is extremely difficult for your child.

Rainbow Writing ~ Write select word wall words three times by retracing the same word in three different colors.



Another Instructional Idea
from

Mrs. Newby