

Language Arts: Make a word book

Step 1: Choose a theme (categorizing)

Do: Students should choose a theme for their book and then make a cover with the theme as the title.

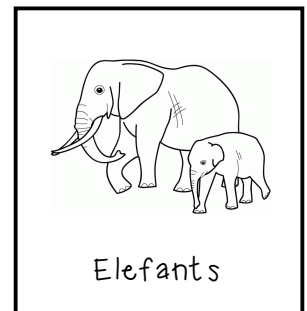
Parent teaching tip: In class we talk about categories and how to group things by what they have in common. During math we sorted small math toys by size, color, feature (soft/hard) and type (bears/cars.) We also discussed how words can be sorted, or categorized (farm words, ocean words, insects, etc.). Have your child think about a category or theme for their word book. Some theme examples are: baseball words, colors, things I like to do, kitchen tools, things I see in my room, and food. Some students may benefit from a theme that they can actually see. For example, if writing about kitchen tools, a student could go into the kitchen and visually see what items could be in the book.



Step 2: Sounding out words (segmenting)

Do: Students should write a word on each page of their book. They should work on sounding out the word **WITH** you and then writing the letters. Please determine the appropriate number of pages for you child. I expect at least 4 pages (4 words) but your child may be ready for more.

Parent teaching tip: We are trying hard to start sounding out words when we write. Students will really benefit from having one-on-one help at home with this skill. As students think of words to add to their pages, help them sound out each part of the word. Spelling incorrectly at this point is o.k.! Students should write the letters that matches the sound they hear. They may write a K instead of a C for the /K/ sound. They may not write an E at the end of a word because it is silent and they don't hear the sound. That is o.k.! Each individual student will be at a different stage in sounding out words. Some may only hear the first and last sound while others might be able to sound out long words like "elephant." **Please don't just write the words for your student to copy. That will help them practice writing letters but won't help them learn to sound out (segment) words.**



Example of phonetic spelling

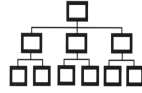
Step 3: Drawing with details



Do: Students should draw a DETAILED picture of the word on each page.

Parent teaching tip: We have been focusing on details over the past two weeks. We've talked about the importance of listening for details in stories and when someone gives directions. The students also noticed that it is easier to figure out what a picture is if the artist used a lot of details. To help students add details to their drawings, you may want to find a picture of the item they are drawing or have them look at the real thing. Look at it closely with your child and point out different details that you both see. Have students add them to the drawing.

Math: Toy Sort



Step 1: Sorting and categorizing

Do: Students should find a box or pile of mixed up toys somewhere in the house and think of different ways to sort them. They should sort the pile at least 3 different ways.

Here are some ways you might sort:

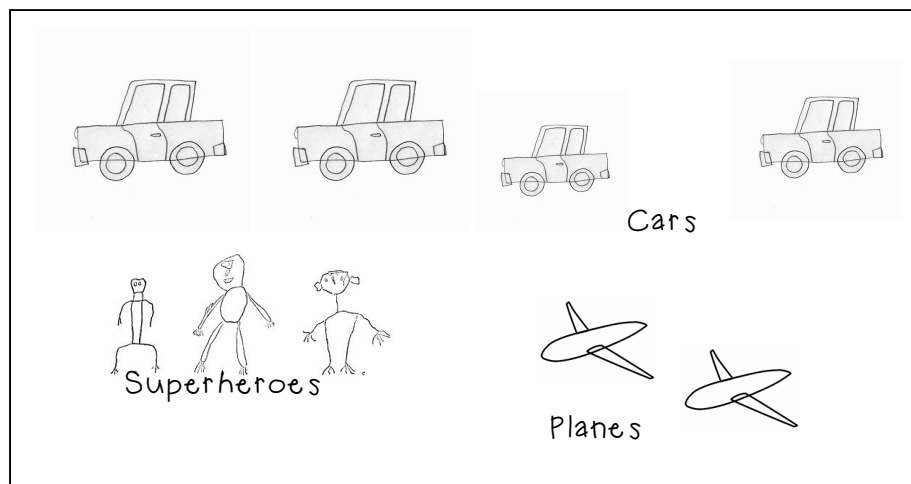
- by color
- by size
- by type (legos/blocks/Lincoln logs)
- by feature (bumpy, smooth)
- by attribute (shapes with 4 sides/3 sides/no sides)

Parent teaching tips: As students are sorting have them explain their “rule.” They don’t need to use the wording above but they might say something like, “this pile has green cars, this pile has green dinosaurs, and this pile has red dinosaurs.” In this example, the student sorted by color *and* type. You can also play the game, Guess My Rule. First, one person sorts. When finished, the other person guesses how the items were sorted. (By color, by texture, etc.)

***If your child has trouble keeping their piles separated, you may want to use a muffin tin.

Step 2: Recording your thinking

Do: Students should record 1 of their sorts by drawing it on paper. They should find a way to explain their categories and/or rule. It might look something like this...



On Monday students should have their word books and sorting page in their homework folder. They will share the book and page with their buddy. We will keep the books in the classroom to continue reading throughout the year.