

# Words Their Way



## Words Their Way

At Barwon Heads Primary School, we have recently implemented a new word study program called 'Words Their Way'. The program focuses primarily on the patterns and features within a word, as well as the history behind our English language. Teachers will be sending these word sorts home instead of their previous spelling lists. It would be appreciated if you could take the time to assist your children in spelling these words correctly and conducting regular 'word sorts'. In this brochure are some examples of games and activities that you can complete together as a family.

## How to do a Blind Sort

A blind sort involves working with a partner and testing one another on their spelling words. Students are not to use the cards to help as they must be able to spell their words without assistance.

1. Find a partner and sit back-to-back
2. Ask your partner to read out the words from your word sort
3. When he or she reads the word, you write it or spell it out loud
4. When you finish, check that the words were spelt correctly.
5. Thank your partner and offer to read out his or her words.
6. Put your cards back in the envelope.

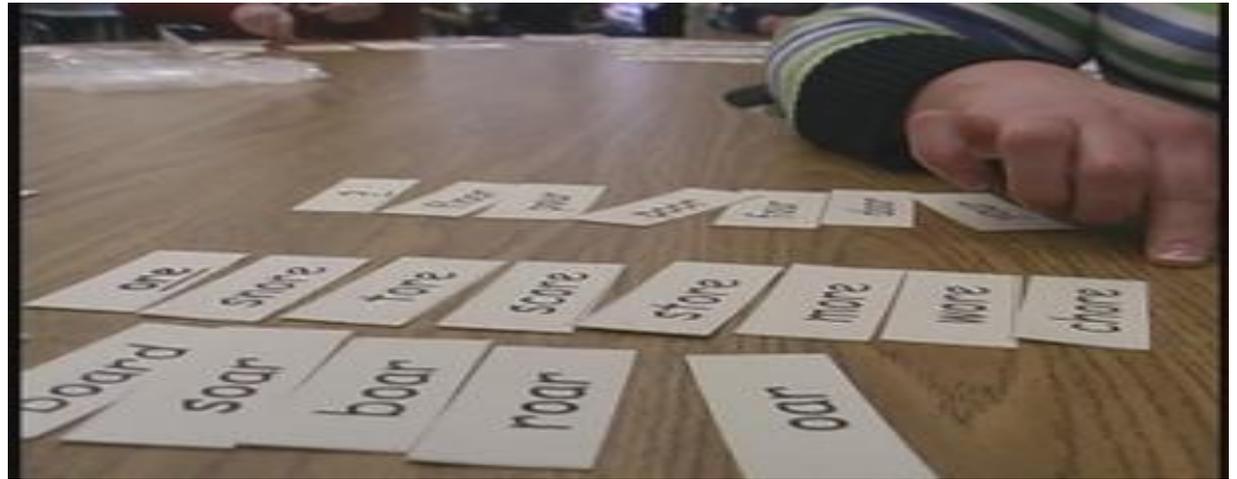
## How to do a Word Hunt

A Word Hunt involves using their take home readers or other books from home to assist in finding words similar to those in their word sort. Students must have identified the features within their word sort before they can complete this activity.

1. Decide if you are going to work alone or with a partner
2. Take out your cards from your word sort
3. Find a book, magazine, newspaper etc to read
4. On a piece of paper or journal, write the category headings
5. Read the book and look for any words that fit your categories
6. Record the words on your piece of paper or journal
7. Put your cards back in your envelope

# How to do a Word Sort

1. Take out your cards
2. Read all of your cards
3. Ask a question if you don't know a word (or look it up in a dictionary)
4. Think about the sounds and spelling
5. Sort the words into columns
6. Read the words aloud to check
7. Ask someone else to check
8. Put your cards back in the envelope to keep them safe.



## How to do a Speed Sort

A Speed Sort involves sorting your words into the correct categories based on their features or sounds. This can be done with a partner where you race against each other, or can be done independently where students use a timer and try to achieve their personal best time.

1. Take out your cards and shuffle them
2. Get your watch/timer ready and press start
3. Begin sorting your cards
4. When you finish, press stop
5. Record your time and then sort your words again to see if you can achieve a better time
6. Put your cards back in your envelope.

## How to do a Draw and Label

Students will need a notebook or piece of paper to complete this activity. They will also require coloured pencils, crayons or textas.

1. In your notebook, draw columns for each category within your word sort
2. Write the headings of each category at the top of each column
3. Brainstorm and draw any pictures that represent a word fitting that category
4. Underneath the image, label it (using the correct spelling features or sound)
5. Share your drawings with a family member and see if they can contribute any more.

### Short a and Long a (CVCe, ai)

ă CVC	ā CVCe	ā CVVC-ai	Oddball
cat	face	rain	said
dash	mane	brain	want
camp	blame	faint	
stamp	snake	train	
snack	crane	paint	
flash	place	main	
black	bake	snail	