

Word Families

Word families are powerful tools for reading and writing. By adding different consonants or consonant blends to a word pattern (sometimes called rimes), a whole family of words can be created. These phonic patterns are easier to learn than individual vowel sounds.

Nearly 500 primary grade words can be made from the following set of only 37 patterns:

-ack	-all	-ain	-ake	-ale
-ame	-an	-ank	-ap	-ash
-at	-ate	-aw	-ay	-eat
-ell	-est	-ice	-ick	-ide
-ight	-ill	-in	-ine	-ing
-ink	-ip	-ir	-ock	-oke
-op	-ore	-or	-uck	-ug
-ump	-unk			

- For spelling practice, choose a word pattern and see how many words your child can make. Use magnetic letters, computer, paper and pencil.
- For reading practice, choose a word pattern and tell your child how to pronounce it. Then write a list of words and ask your child to read the words. Make up silly rhymes.

