

## Word Study Approach to Spelling

Our spelling approach is based on research and materials found in “Words Their Way” by Donald Bear, Marcia Invernizzi, Shane Templeton and Francine Johnston.

The purpose of a word study program is to allow students to develop an understanding of spelling patterns in words. The students look closely at letter-sound patterns in words as they engage in word sorts and other activities. For example, cat, fat and sat word be sorted in the “at “word family category, the students learn the spelling pattern and will be able to spell any word that ends in “at”.

The differences you will see with this program are:

Children will not be expected to memorize the word, but learn the spelling patterns that are part of the sort.

The children will be engaged in hands on activities to sort words with common characteristics into defined groups.

Students will be asked to spell 10 words from the word list on Friday’s test. The teacher will choose the words on the test based on the needs of the child.

By repeatedly sorting words with similar features, students will learn to examine and made judgments about new words they encounter based on what they have already learned.

## How to Study for Spelling Tests

1. Cut out the words on the Sorting sheet that will be in the posted on the website each week. Sort the words on the blank sorting sheet, also posted on the website. Save these words to be used for practice each night.
2. Have children sort the words using the blank sorting sheet each night. Glue the words on the blank sorting sheet on Thursday night and send the blank sorting sheet back to school on Friday.
3. Have the students write the words each night, writing the words based on the ending sorts and the beginning constant or blend. Allow students to sound out the word.
4. Please give at least two practice tests during the week. Say the word and ask the children to write each word. Check the test with the child, asking the child to spelling the word aloud while checking. Fix any wrong spellings at this time.
5. Do at least one of the Pick Two assignments each week and return it to school.