

Appendix C13

Sorting Word Patterns

1. Before having your child read a new book, take a look through it and see if you notice any repeated word patterns. For example, you might notice words with –ed and –ing endings. In another book, you might notice words that have the long "a" sound, as in –ake and –ate. Make a list of these words for your own use before your child reads the book.
2. You might also notice that a book has a new word pattern your child will read, such as in the word "vine." The –ine is a word pattern ending your child can add to his/her knowledge.
3. With these word patterns, you can create various word sorts in a notebook for your child to practice. After reading a book, choose one-word pattern to sort on a page in your child's notebook.
4. For the –ed/-ing word endings, create two columns on an empty page in a notebook. Label the tops of each column with the word endings. Have your child find the words in the book that have the –ed ending and write those words in the correct column. Next, have your child find the words in the book that have the –ing ending and write those words in the correct column. Notice if your child can sort the words easily. Can he/she write the word independently, or does he/she have to look at the book? Tell your child a new word with the –ed or –ing ending. Can he/she put it in the correct column on the notebook page?
5. You can do the same with new words to sort, such as words with the –ake or the –ate ending. From the list that you prepared, see if your child can write the word in the correct column. Always have your child add new words that might not be in the book but that fit the pattern.
6. From time to time, your child can read the sorted word pattern pages as a review. This is a good way to add new words to your child's list of known words.