

Appendix D11

How to Make a Chunks List

1. Use a new notebook or put together sheets of paper as a book.
2. Choose one "chunk" or part of a word that your child can read independently. For example, he/she probably easily knows the –ing chunk or the –er chunk. At the top of a new page, write, "The –er chunk as in the word river."
3. Have your child make a list of words he/she can write and read that contain that chunk. For example, on the –er page he/she can write the words river, enter, forever, better, etc.
4. Think of interesting parts of words, such as the –y in the word "family." The title of this list would be "The –y chunk as in the word family." Words that would fit this list are family, party, carry, marry, happily, etc. However, contrast this chunk with the –y chunk in the word "fly." It has a different sound. So title a new page, "The –y chunk as in the word fly." Words that fit this list could be fly, shy, my, try, why, and myself.
5. To make this activity more challenging, think about chunks that are not necessarily at the ends of words. Your child can make a list called "The be- chunk as in the word between." Some words that might fit are between, believe, beginning, behind, etc.
6. Again, to make this activity more challenging, from time to time go back to a list and think about how the chunk might appear in the middle of a word. For example, the –er chunk can be in the middle of words like "covered" or "understand." Add those to the list.