

Meet the Word Families

Helping students see themselves as readers!



Skilled readers recognize patterns in words rather than sound words out, letter by letter. Word families, also known as phonograms, rimes, or chunks, are letter patterns that are more stable than individual vowel sounds. Readers can use word families to decode by analogy-use what they know about one word to decode another. If a reader knows the word, tack, for example, it's likely that he/she will be able to read other -ack words, such as snack and jacket. Recognizing word families helps students build large reading vocabularies. The most common word families are listed below, along with ways to promote them.

Ways to practice Word Families:

- Use Bananagrams or Scrabble letters to make the words
- Use magnetic letters on a cookie sheet to make the words
- Make 2 copies of each word on a small index card and play concentration with them
- Search in rhyming books to see if they can find them in context.
- Texture Writing: Ask to child to make words by using a variety of textures: Play-Doh, shaving cream, sand, markers, chalk, crayons, finger paint, water paint, etc.
- Use an Envelope of Words: To encourage your child to practice letter patterns, write the words on paper and cut each letter apart. Place the letters in an envelope, and label it with the word family. Then ask your child to build words. Your child could also write the words he/she makes on paper, chalkboard, marker board, etc. This activity can be extended to making sentences and cutting them apart to rebuild.
- Have kids work with a family at a time and write down as many as they can on a white board, chalk board, etc.
- Nursery Rhymes/Dr. Seuss books: Place small sticky notes over words in the story that contain word chunks. Let your child play a guessing game and guess what spelling patterns/words belong it the space. Lift the stick note to check your answer.

Great books for rhyming word family practice!

- Dr. Seuss: Green Eggs and Ham, The Cat in the Hat, One Fish Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, Sheep in a Jeep, Hop on Pop, Fox in Socks
- Anna Dewdney: Llama Llama Red Pajamas, (series)
- Bill Martin Jr.: Brown Bear, Brown Bear (series)
- P.D. Eastman: Go, Dog, Go!, Are You My Mother?, Sam and the Firefly, The Best Nest, Snow, A Fish Out of Water, Fred and Ted Like to Fly, Flap Your Wings, Big Dog, Little Dog, Red, Stop! Green, Go!, Fred and Ted's Road Trip
- Look in the Nursery Rhyme section of the children's library.

Meet the most common Word Families:

Meet the at family:	cat mat rat hat sat bat fat that flat brat chat
Meet the ag family:	tag rag gag hag nag sag flag bag drag lag stag zig-zag
Meet the an family:	can fan tan ran pan than ban man van bran plan
Meet the it family:	bit kit hit fit lit pit sit wit spit split quit slit
Meet the ig family	big dig fig gig jig rig wig pig twig
Meet the in family:	bin din fin kin spin pin thin tin shin chin grin skin
Meet the op family:	bop cop hop stop pop mop shop flop top slop
Meet the ing family:	ring sing thingding fling king bing swing sting bring spring wing
Meet the ip family:	lip slip dip tip ship rip chip skip sip zip chip clip nip hip
Meet the ug family:	bug dug rug hug chugslug jug lug mug pug tug snug
Meet the et family:	bet get let met set wet net vet jet pet
Meet the un family:	bun sun run fun gun nun stun
Meet the ee family:	see bee tree tee green teen seep sleep steep fee gee
Meet the ot family:	dot pot rot tot shot not lot spot got hot jot cot
Meet the ell family:	bell dell fell jell sell tell well swell spell cell shell yell
Meet the ay family:	bay clay day gray hay pay play say spray stay stray way tray

Meet the ed family:	bed fed led red shed sled wed fled bled
Meet the ack family:	back hack lack pack quack rack sack tack black clack crack shack slack smack stack track whack
Meet the ad family:	bad tad glad dad clad brad had lad mad pad sad
Meet the all family:	ball call fall hall mall small stall wall tall gall
Meet the ap family:	cap chap clap flap gap lap map nap rap sap slap scrap snap strap trap wraptap yap
Meet the ill family:	bill chill dill drill fill grill hill mill pill quill shrill sill spill still will
Meet the ick family:	brick chick click kick lick pick sick slick stick trick
Meet the ink family:	blink drink ink kink link rink sink stink think wink
Meet the ake family	bake brake cake fake flake lake make rake shake snake stake take wake
Meet the am family:	am bam dam ham jam yam gram slam spam scam
Meet the ar family:	bar car far jar star tar
Meet the ate family:	ate crate date grate hate late platerate skateslate state
Meet the est family:	best chest jest next pest rest test vest west