



Resource Guide

WORD MATCHING

What is Word Matching?	Word Matching is the ability for a student to classify words based on a similar meaning. This skill is referred to as categorization. Categorization is the act of organizing things into different groups by common attributes. This is a foundational skill for cognitive development and later reading comprehension.
Build background knowledge	Begin by determining a child's active vocabulary. A child who is weak in vocabulary will need more exposure to a rich language environment and help in building background knowledge. Start by categorizing items in the child's daily life. Use categories that are tangible, such as attributes the child can see, allowing them the ability to put objects into a single category. Ex: group all the objects in the room that are used to write (pencils, markers, crayons, etc.) Then, present the child with two different groups or categories Ex: place all the pencils in one group and all the crayons in another
Categorize pictures	Move towards using pictures, allowing the categories to be a bit more sophisticated and abstract. Ex: give the child pictures of various types of foods and have them come up with two categories (healthy foods and unhealthy foods, foods they like and foods they don't like, etc.)
Create categories	When a child has demonstrated the ability to sort objects based on the attributes of a group, let the child come up their own categories. This will help develop strong cognitive and comprehension skills for later use in reading.
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Benchmark Milestones

WORD MATCHING

Benchmark milestones are specific goals that children are expected to achieve at certain stages of their early literacy development

BOY- Beginning of the Year; MOY- Middle of the Year; EOY- End of the Year

Kindergarten	BOY, MOY, & EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can match limited or no commonly associated nouns through pictures Ex: music, instrument 21st-40th %tile: Can match some commonly associated nouns Ex: cemetery, tomb 41st-99th %tile: Can match commonly associated nouns and verbs Ex: buy, dollar
First Grade	BOY, MOY, & EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can match limited or no commonly associated nouns and verbs Ex: buy, dollar 21st-40th %tile: Can match some commonly associated nouns and verbs Ex: fast, sudden 41st-99th %tile: Can match commonly associated nouns and verbs Ex: admire, cherish
Second Grade	BOY, MOY, & EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can match limited or no associated verbs and adjectives Ex: fast, sudden 21st-40th %tile: Can match some commonly associated verbs and adjectives Ex: fast, sudden 41st-99th %tile: Can match more commonly associated verbs and adjectives Ex: flexible, pliable