Reading is "SNOW" Much Fun!

Helping Our Readers Grow

Presented by Erin Hastings - HSD Literacy Coach

December, 2025

Good Morning!

A little bit about me...

My name is Erin Hastings, I've been teaching for 26 years, many of those years in 1st or 2nd Grade, and I love teaching kids to read!

Now, as an HSD Literacy Coach,
I get to work with everyone in the school to help kids learn to read.
It's the BEST!



This Morning We Will Focus on Two Things:

- **Encoding** - helping kids figure out how to spell words.
- **Retelling** - helping kids better understand what they read by remembering important information we read.

Encoding

What is “encoding”?

Encoding is the process of converting spoken sounds into written letters.

Try this at home:

- Say a Spelling Word, or word that follows the spelling patters your child is working on.
- Have your child repeat the word.
- Then, use small items, like cheerios, pennies, buttons, or beans to push up and say each sound in the word.
- Finally, have your child spell each sound in the word.

For example,

if you say “rush”, your child will push a penny up as they say: /r/ /u/ /sh/.

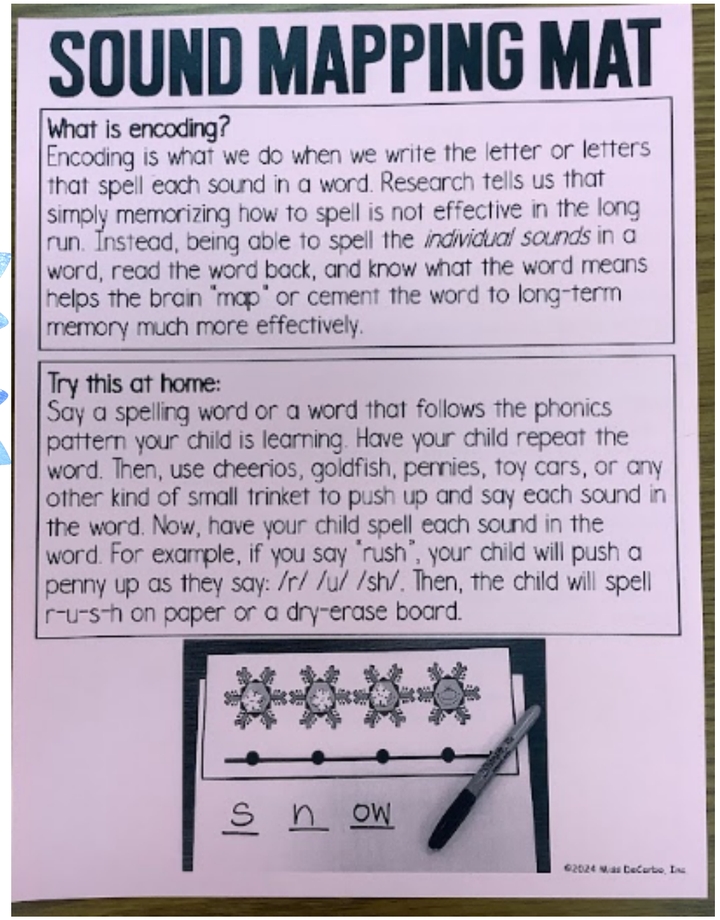
A Written Connection:

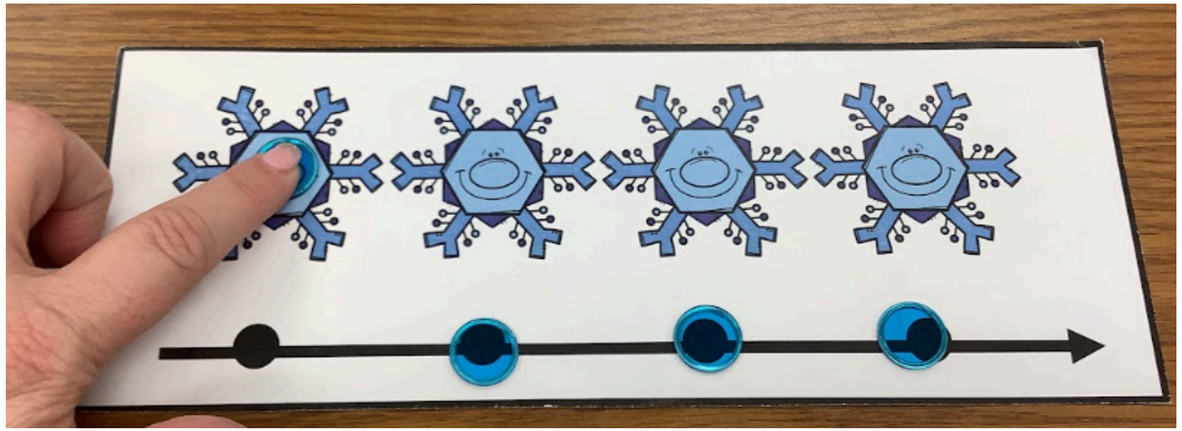
Then, your child will spell r-u-s-h on paper or a dry-erase board.

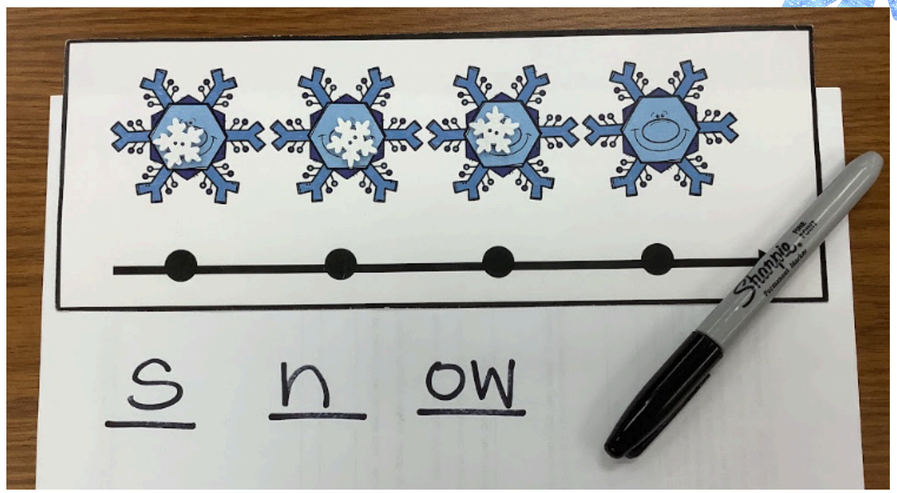
Let's Practice!

Using your snowflake Sound Mapping Mat and counters, let's practice encoding some words, all together.

Let's Practice!







Retelling

What is “retelling”?

Retelling is when a reader tells the story or information from the text they read in their own words, using as many details that they can remember from their reading as possible.

Try this at home:

- Assemble the retelling slider by putting the bead onto the pipe cleaner.
- Put the pipe cleaner through the holes at both ends of the card.
- Put a piece of tape on the back of the slider to hold the pipe cleaner in place.

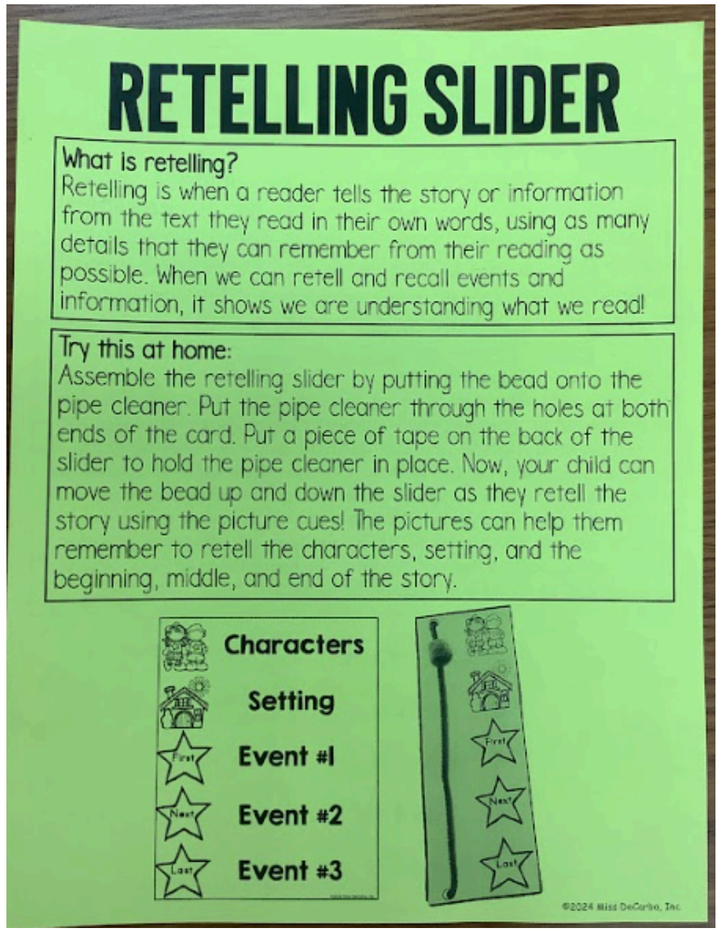
Now, your child can move the bead up and down the slider as they retell the story using the picture cues!

The pictures can help them remember to retell the characters, setting, and the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Let's Practice!

Assemble your Retelling Slider using the materials provided. Let's retell a familiar story using our fun, new sliders.

Let's Practice!



RETELLING SLIDER

What is retelling?
Retelling is when a reader tells the story or information from the text they read in their own words, using as many details that they can remember from their reading as possible. When we can retell and recall events and information, it shows we are understanding what we read!

Try this at home:
Assemble the retelling slider by putting the bead onto the pipe cleaner. Put the pipe cleaner through the holes at both ends of the card. Put a piece of tape on the back of the slider to hold the pipe cleaner in place. Now, your child can move the bead up and down the slider as they retell the story using the picture cues! The pictures can help them remember to retell the characters, setting, and the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

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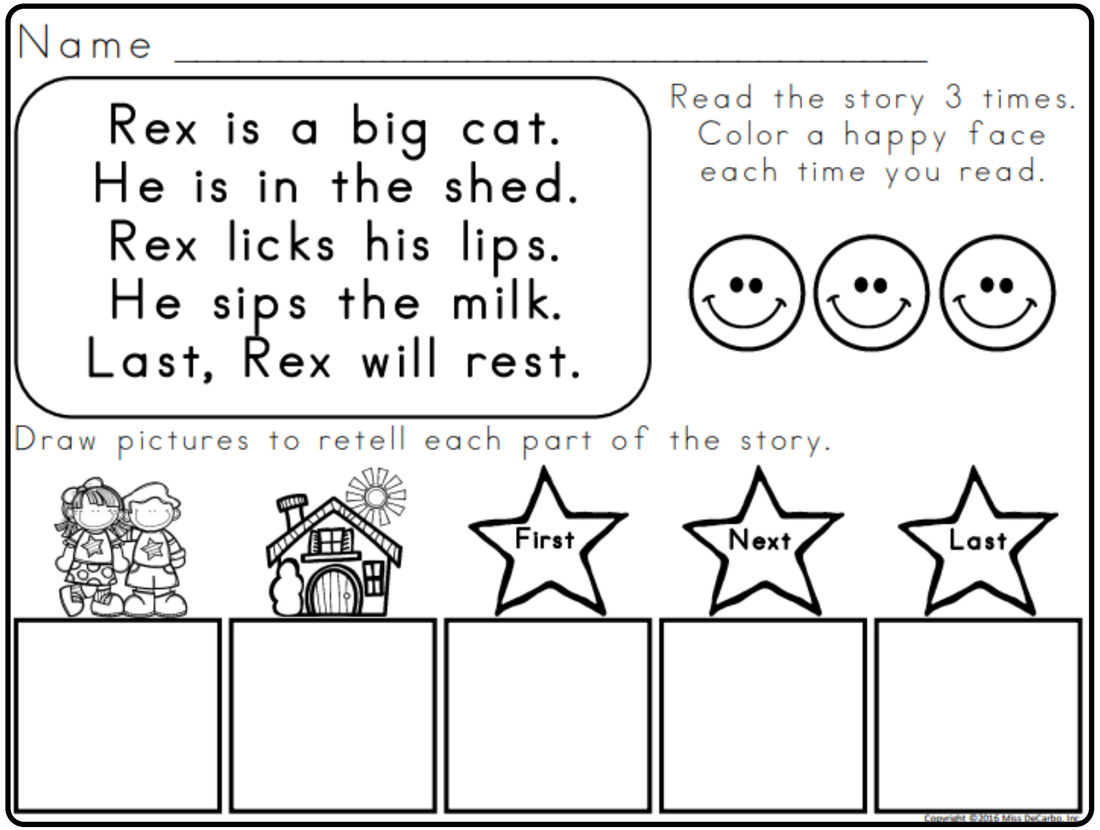

Name _____

Rex is a big cat.
He is in the shed.
Rex licks his lips.
He sips the milk.
Last, Rex will rest.

Read the story 3 times. Color a happy face each time you read.

Draw pictures to retell each part of the story.

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I hope these ideas and tools help to bring some fun into reading and learning at home with your child!

Thank you for coming today and for learning with us together!

Are there any questions?

Have a wonderful day and we hope to see you soon for our next Parent Workshop!

Please help us by providing feedback on the Workshop Evaluation form.

