

CHAPTER 21 – Planning and managing literacy learning

Classroom Activity: Word centre

In the word centre, children practise making and breaking words and reading high-frequency words. The word centre is set up with a range of games and activities, and focuses on high-frequency words and analogy with onset and rime.

Card games

Write high-frequency words on cards for children to play matching games, such as Fish, Concentration and Snap.

Making and breaking

Making and breaking activities involve making a word with plastic letters, such as *cat*, then breaking the word into word families or onset and rime: *c at*. Next, a list of *at* words is made. Onsets and rimes such as these can be made with plastic letters:

an	at	dog	in	but
pan	cat	log	pin	cut
can	mat	frog	fin	rut
man	sat	fog	thin	gut
	rat		grin	shut

Word sorting

Word sorting games can be developed for children to sort words that have the same onset or the same rime; for example, *cat*, *sat* (same rime); *can*, *candle*, *cake*, *cot* (same onset).

Word ladders

Word ladders are made when children change one letter; for example:

in	go	to
pin	got	top
spin	goat	stop
	goats	step

Jigsaw puzzles

Jigsaw puzzles are made with sentences containing high-frequency words.