

Chapter 6

Applying and using knowledge

Introduction

This chapter explores different techniques to break up words. Visual patterns (digraphs, letter strings or word families) are highlighted and made memorable by using mnemonics, word pyramids and sorting techniques, which give children strong visual and oral memories of a base word from which they can spell huge families of words.

However, the visual unity is often foiled by the tricky fact that these 'families' do not have a uniform pronunciation! So the second level of all these activities is to highlight and provide ways to define and explain (or at least explore) these differences.

Poster notes

Word pyramid (page 91)

Use this poster to show children how powerful the patterns of words can be in terms of creating an image for your brain to remember. Each pyramid has the same pattern and shows how adding a letter or suffix makes a new word. But when you say these words in the first pyramid, it is clear that the pronunciation does not follow the pattern. Encourage the children to create their own pyramids where they expand upon a letter string, creating words that have a common pattern.

In this chapter

Word families page 92	To spell words with common letter strings but different pronunciations.
Vowel digraphs page 96	To spell words with common vowel digraphs but different pronunciations.
Exploring /k/ page 100	To explore the hard /k/ sound at the ends of words. To explore where and how the letter 'k' appears in words.
Assessment page 104	Activities and ideas to assess knowledge of spelling families.

