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# Introduction

The 14 different *Working with Words* centers presented in this book give students many opportunities to manipulate letters and words. Each center is designed to reinforce literacy skills as students work together with partners or in small groups.

Literacy Centers allow students to work independently to extend the concepts they have learned during classroom instruction. Literacy Centers also give teachers greater flexibility, permitting them to work with individuals or small groups while the rest of the students are actively involved in constructive activities. Word work literacy centers, in particular, help early emergent and emergent readers develop phonemic awareness, word patterning, and sight word recognition, all of which work together to further their ability to read independently.



While literacy centers are effective in increasing students' language skills, we know that it takes time and effort to prepare for them every week. For example, appropriate pictures have to be collected, word cards made, and reproducible pages developed. *Working With Words* provides ready-to-go materials that let you create centers almost instantly. For many of the centers, all you need to do is reproduce some cards (featuring letters, words, or pictures) and cut them out.

## Center Activities

Each activity has been kept simple to assure that students readily understand what to do after a brief explanation from you. Each center includes:

- an introductory page that explains how to assemble and use the center
- cards, game boards, and/or reproducible activity sheets to be used at the center

## Storage

Once you reproduce and cut out the materials for each center, place each set in a resealable plastic bag. Write the name of the activity on the bag with a permanent marker, then store all the bags in one box.

## A Word about Paper

We suggest that you use tagboard or cover stock for reproducing the cards needed for each literacy center. Tagboard is sturdier than ordinary photocopy paper. Many schools carry colored tagboard that can be run through a copy machine. If you wish, reproduce the cards on a different color paper for each center. That will make it easy to distinguish the different sets. (If you do not have colored tagboard or cover stock at school, you can find it at most office supply stores or copy shops.) Choose lighter shades so that the print will show up well. If you have time, before cutting out the cards, laminate the tagboard to increase its durability.

# High Frequency Words



## Purpose

Students create a portable word chart that matches the class word wall. This word chart will help students with their reading and writing at home as well as at school. It can also serve as an easy-to-use dictionary.

## Materials Included

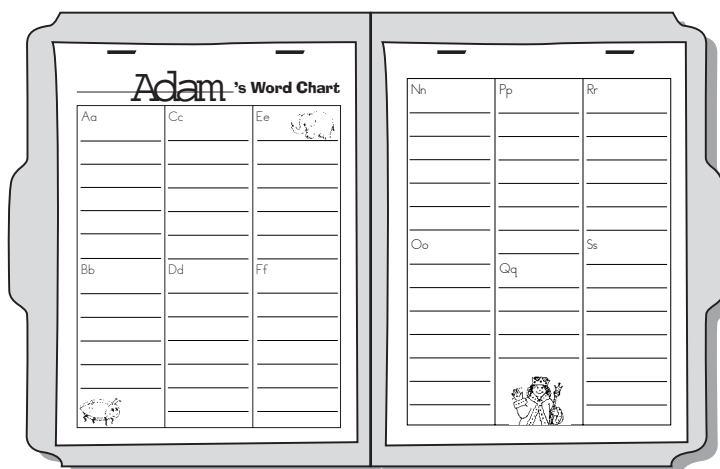
- Word chart letters
- High-frequency word list (for teacher reference)

## Materials Needed

- File folders (one per child)
- Scissors and stapler

## Optional Materials

- Crayons

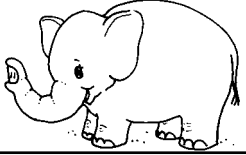
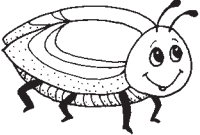


## Directions to the Teacher

1. Reproduce a set of word chart letters for each student. Staple the word chart letter pages to the inside of each file folder. Staple two pages on the left and two pages on the right.
2. As words are added to the class word wall, have students write the words on their personal word charts. They can use the words to write sentences or stories at the word work center.
3. Students may choose to use crayons to highlight the high-frequency words in the same color as the paper on which the classroom wall words are written.



# 's Word Chart

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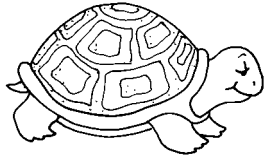
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Tt



Handwriting practice lines for the letter Tt, consisting of ten horizontal lines.

Uu

Handwriting practice lines for the letter Uu, consisting of seven horizontal lines.

Vv

Handwriting practice lines for the letter Vv, consisting of three horizontal lines.

Ww

Handwriting practice lines for the letter Ww, consisting of eight horizontal lines.

Xx

Handwriting practice lines for the letter Xx, consisting of four horizontal lines.

Yy

Handwriting practice lines for the letter Yy, consisting of three horizontal lines.

Zz

Handwriting practice lines for the letter Zz, consisting of six horizontal lines.



# High Frequency Words

<p>Kindergarten Words</p> <p>am an and are as at be can did do for from go have</p>	<p>on or said see that the they this to up was with yes you</p>	<p>day down each find first get had has her him how if into its long look</p>	<p>out over part she so some take than their them then there these time two use way</p>
<p>he his I in is it like me my not of</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Grade Words</p> <p>about all been but by call come could</p>	<p>made make many may more new no now one only other</p>	<p>we were what when which who will word would your</p>