

Dear Parents,

The following collection of activity sheets is based on a spelling program I created with a colleague of mine while I was teaching second grade. The activities are designed to help children with auditory discrimination as well as finding word family patterns.



When introducing the **Word Detective** activity, begin with a discussion about words that follow the pattern they will be asked to look for. For example, if the children are going to be asked to look for words beginning with the “y” sound, ask them to listen to the following list and tell what they have in common: yellow, you, yesterday, and young. Once they recognize that the words all begin with the letter “y”, brainstorm a list of words that begin with that letter and record them on the sheet. They can draw the word, write the word, or do both depending upon their level.

When introducing the **Rhyme Time** activity, start by asking your children to share any rhyming words they can think of. Next, follow the letter or pattern focus of the day and give an oral example. You might say, “give me a word that begins with the letter “y” and rhymes with mellow.” The children should respond with the word yellow. They can then fill in the worksheet with their answers. Feel free to read the words aloud or have the children read along depending upon their ability.

The lessons progress from beginning consonant sounds, to digraphs, and then short and long vowel sounds. They then focus on consonant blends, vowel digraphs, double consonant endings, and root word endings. There are also activities that introduce compound words and homophones. Finally, the lessons encourage the children to think about those tricky words that end in ed when they sometimes sound like “id” (waited), “d” (wondered), and “t” (watched).

I hope these activities encourage your children to explore the words around them and have fun rhyming with them!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Valentino".

Rebecca