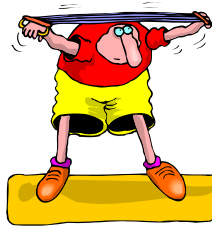




Stretch the Word



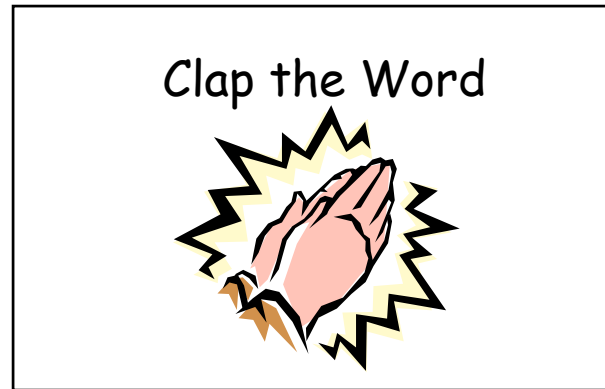
What That Means

Students need to be able to hear each sound in a word to correctly write it. When they stretch a word, they say the word slowly, and listen carefully for the sounds they hear.

Ex: /c/---/a/---/t/

How You Can Help

- Say the word slowly. Try to emphasize all the sounds in the word.
- Ask your child what sounds he or she hears, and what letters make those sounds.



What That Means

Hearing word parts, or syllables, in words, helps to break words into manageable chunks for writing. Students should clap once for each syllable, which will allow the student to concentrate on just a few sounds at a time when they are matching letters to those sounds.

Ex: Fan-tas-tic

How You Can Help

- Practice clapping out syllables with your child.
- Remind your child to clap out the syllables in complex words before writing.

Tap the Word



What That Means

Tapping out words helps students to hear individual sounds in words. To tap out a word, you will touch your thumb to your fingertip for each sound you hear. Start by touching your thumb to your pointer finger, and then move on to the other fingers for each sound you hear.

Ex: /c/ /a/ /t/

How You Can Help

- Tap out tricky words with your child.
- Remind your child to write a letter to match each of the sounds.

Think About Word Chunks



What That Means

Students can listen for small chunks that they may know in bigger words. Being able to record those chunks will help in making a larger word more manageable.

Ex: mat winter

How You Can Help

Bring your child's attention to little words or chunks within words that he or she is trying to write.

Think About Similar Words



What That Means

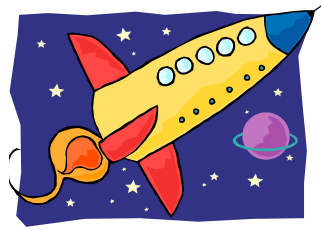
Students can use a word that they know to help them to write words that are similar to it. For example, if a child knows how to spell like, then he or she should be able to use that to write the word bike.

Ex: like to bike, can to candle

How You Can Help

- Try to think of the words your child is able to write that are similar to a word he or she wants to write.
- Ask your child to spell a similar word. Help him or her to find the part that is the same, and to decide how the word will need to be changed to write the new word.

Remember Spaces



What That Means

Good writers know that there should be spaces between words, and very little space between the letters within words.

How You Can Help

- As your child is writing, point out when a new word begins, and remind him or her that a space is needed before the next word.
- If you do see an error in spacing, have your child see if he or she can find it too.

Re-Read and Check



What That Means

Students should be able to check their writing. This helps them to remember the strategies that good writers use, and correcting the mistakes is good practice in how each strategy should be used.

How You Can Help

- Ask your child to read what he or she has written to you to see what comes next or to notice a mistake.
- When you see that your child has made a mistake, don't tell exactly what it is. Instead give him or her clues, such as what kind of error it is, and then allow your child to fix it.

Check Your Mechanics

What That Means

Good writers use correct punctuation and capitalization in their writing. There should be a capital letter in the beginning of each sentence, only lowercase letters within the sentence, and punctuation at the end.

How You Can Help

When your child is done writing, review what mechanics need to be included. Have your child check for each in the writing piece.