

How do teachers prepare for word study?

Teachers administered a spelling inventory, as well as examined the child's reading and writing to determine the appropriate starting point for the student. The students will complete various sorts/activities throughout the week using their assigned words.

Weekly spelling tests, spelling checks within every unit of the program, as well as transfer to reading and writing will assist the teachers with assessing the child in word study.



Words Their Way supports the Common Core standards that New Jersey has adopted. Word study will assist students in achieving the Reading: Foundational Skills, as well as the Language standards.

The Words Their Way program stresses the need for the children to discover the patterns and meanings on their own – with some guidance from adults if necessary. Your child should be able to read the words in their sorts, as this simplifies the task of identifying patterns.

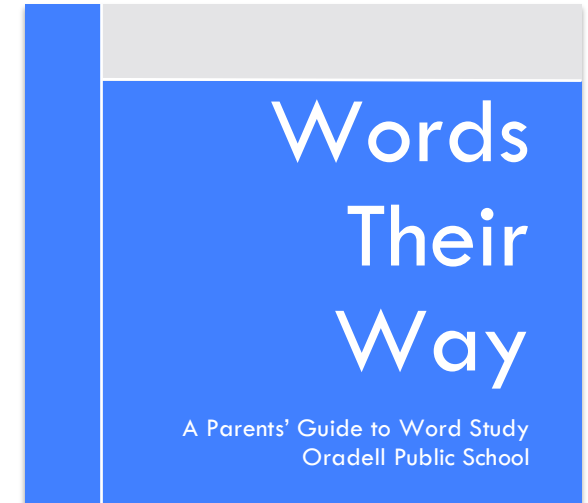
Please make sure your child is verbalizing the ways they are sorting their words, as reflection is a critical part of their learning.

Word sorts will be completed daily, as the goal is to achieve automaticity. In order to become fluent readers, the children must achieve fast, accurate recognition of words in context.

We appreciate your support with implementing this new program, as we are very excited to be a part of your child's learning experience here at Oradell Public School.

Toni Violetti

Instructional Supervisor, OPS
201-261-1180 x183
violetti@oradellschool.org



Word Study

is defined as: “A learner-centered, conceptual approach to instruction in phonics, spelling, word recognition, and vocabulary, based on a developmental model.”

Bear, D.R., Invernizzi, M., Templeton, S., & Johnston, F. (2012). *Words their way: Word study for phonics, vocabulary, and spelling instruction* (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Why?

To discover generalizations about English spelling through active exploration

To learn specific knowledge about individual words – including spellings and meanings

Three layers of learning:

Alphabetic = the relationship between letters and sounds

Pattern = There are 42-44 sounds in English and only 26 letters - there is a need to find the patterns within the spelling

Meaning = prefixes, suffixes, Greek and Latin roots

Words Their Way



“The purpose of word study then, is to examine words in order to reveal the logic and consistencies within our written language system and to help students achieve mastery in recognizing, spelling, and defining specific words.”

-Words Their Way, p. 4

SOME SORTS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO COMPLETE TOGETHER:

Closed Sort: Have your child use the headers and first match up the key words/pictures (usually in bold). They then use these examples to assist them with completing the sort.

Open Sort: The children do not use the headers. They sort all the words and create their own headers.

Guess My Category: Have your child sort some of their words without using the headers. They might sort them by parts of speech, a pattern they notice, meaning...and you need to guess how they sorted their words.

Guess My Word: Your child sorts the words. They then tell you, “I’m thinking of a word. It follows the ___ pattern (whatever the header

is), and it means _____.” You guess the word and if correct, they turn the word over. Continue playing until words are all turned over – may alternate turns.

Speed Sort: Student lays headers out, turns over their words and mixes them up. Set a timer and they are to complete the sort as quickly as they can. Complete again, to see if they beat their time. (Adult may go first on this one.)

Blind Sort: Take out your child’s headers. Turn over the other words, mix them up and put them in a pile. Choose one word, and say it aloud to them. If your child spells the word correctly, give it to them and they are to place it under the correct header. If they spell it wrong, they are to give it back to you and you are to mix it back into the pile.



pppst.com