EARLY PHONICS INSTRUCTION FOR K-1

Sequence for Phonics Instruction
1. Alphabet Recognition and writing.
2. Beginning sounds. (Ending sounds.)
3. Short vowel rhyming word families.
5. Short vowel sounds in nonrhyming families.

Suggested Sequence For Introducing Initial Consonant Sound Sort
(1) M/S; M/S/B; M/S/B/R
(2) P/N; P/N/T; P/N/T/G
(3) C/F; C/F/D; C/F/D/H
(4) J/K; J/K/L; J/K/L/W
(5) V/Y/Z
(6) SH/S/H; CH/C/H; TH/T/H
TH/CH/WH; TH/CH/SH

Possible Sequence For The Study Of Word Families With The Same Vowel
Short A families: 1. –AT -AN (Start with 2 families.)
2. –AP -AT (Add another and review one.)
3. –AT, -AG, -AP (Try 3, but include a familiar one for review.)
4. -AN, -AD, -AP, -ACK (Try 4, with some familiar ones.)

Short I families: 5. –IG, -IT, -IP (Start with 3 or maybe 3 on the second vowel family.) 6. –IN, -ID, -ILL, -ICK (Be ready to pick up the pace.)

Short O families: 7. –OT, -OG, -OP, -OCK

Short E Families: 8. –ET, -EN, -ED, -ELL

Short U families: 9. -UT, -UG, -UCK, -UMP

Possible Sequence For The Study Of Mixed-Vowel Word Families
1. –AT -OT
2. –IT, -AT, -OT
3. –IT, -OT, UT, -ET
4. –AN, -IN, -AP, -IP
5. –AD, -AG, -ID, -IG
6. –IG, -OG, -UG, -EG
7. –OP, -UP, -OCK, -UCK
8. –ACK, -OCK, -ICK, -UCK
9. –ALL, -ELL, -ILL

Sequence for Early Reader Phonics Instruction  
(Late Beginners-Transitional Stage Readers)
1. Review of consonant blends.
2. Review of word families.
3. Compare short vowel sounds in nonrhyming words. Include words with blends and digraphs (that, chin, ship, when).
4. Compare long vowel sounds to short vowel sounds.
5. Compare long vowel patterns to short vowel patterns and to each other.

Sequence for Short Vowel Contrasts
1. Compare short “a” with short “i”.
2. Compare short “o” with short “a”.
3. Compare short “i” with short “o” and short “a”.
4. Compare short “e” and short “u”.
5. Compare all short vowels in various combinations (a, e, i, o, u).

Picture Sorts for Short Vowels. Use pictures of words spelled with short vowels for picture sorts followed by writing sorts, as described in the Book Buddies manual and in Words Their Way. Picture sorts should also be used when comparing by sound short vs. long vowels.

Suggested Sequence of Comparisons for Short and Long Vowel Study

-A Patterns:
Sort by Sound: short “a” vs. long “a”
Sort by Sound and Pattern: short “a” vs. long “a” with silent “e” (face)
Add long “a” spelled “ai” (rain)
Add long “a” spelled “ay” (ray, stay)

-E Patterns:
Sort by Sound: short “e” vs. long “e”
Sort by Sound and Pattern: short “e” vs. long “e” spelled “ee” (green)
Add long “e” spelled “ea” (eat)

-I Patterns:
Sort by Sound: short “i” vs. long “i”
Sort by Sound and Pattern: short “i” vs. long “i” spelled with silent “e” (like)
Add long “i” spelled “igh” (light)
Add long “i” spelled with “y” (fly)

-O Patterns:
Sort by Sound: short “o” vs. long “o”
Sort by Sound and Pattern: short “o” vs. long “o” spelled with silent “e” (bone)
Add long “o” spelled “oa” (boat)
Add long “o” spelled “ow” (grow)

-U Patterns:
Sort by Sound: short “u” vs. long “u”
Sort by Sound and Pattern: short “u” vs. long “u” spelled with silent “e” (cube)
Add long “u” spelled “ue” (glue)
Add long “u” spelled “eu” (flew)


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