

Elkonin Word Boxes

Use Elkonin Boxes to help students build phonological awareness by segmenting words into phonemes. This will help students with the alphabetic principle, decoding, spelling, and phoneme awareness.

Materials: Pencil and Paper

To be Used With Predetermined Word Lists

Steps for Intervention:

1. Select a word list to use for the Elkonin Boxes
2. Pronounce a word slowly, each sound should be stretched so the student hears the individual sounds.
3. Have student repeat word.
4. Draw boxes on a piece of paper or dry erase board with one box for each syllable or phoneme.
5. Have the student count the phonemes in the word. Remember not the number of letters. For example, Chat has three phonemes and will use three boxes /ch/, /a/, /t/.
6. Either have the child write the phoneme in each box or have the child place a colored circle in each box representing the phoneme. The student should do this while repeating the word phoneme by phoneme.

Example: Chat

Ch	a	t
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Example: bat

b	a	t
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Example: fat

f	a	t
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Example: back

B	a	ck
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Example: sack

s	a	ck
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Resources Supporting Intervention:

Blachman, B. A., Ball, E. W., Black, R., & Tangel, D. M. (2000). *Road to the code: A phonological awareness program for young children*. Baltimore: Brookes.

Clay, M.M. (1993). *Reading Recovery: A guidebook for teachers in training*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Elkonin, D.B. (1971). "Development of Speech". In A.V. Zaporozhets and D. B. Elkonin (Eds.). *The Psychology of Preschool Children*. Cambridge, MA: M.I.T. Press.

Elkonin, D.B. (1973). USSR. In J. Downing (ed.), *Comparative Reading* (p 551-589). New York: Macmillan.

Joseph, L.M. (2000). Using word boxes as a large group phonics approach in a first grade classroom. *Reading Horizons*, 41, 117-127.