

WORD FAMILY PUZZLES

Designed to meet these objectives:

Language

- Students will recognize spelling patterns.
- Students will decode and recognize words.
- Students will substitute initial phonemes.

These colorful puzzles give students a fun, hands-on way to build their vocabularies. Each three-piece puzzle features a rime and two words and illustrations of that word family. As they complete each puzzle, students develop new vocabulary and build essential language skills!

What's Included

- 74 puzzles
- 8 vinyl storage pouches

Getting Started

Before letting students work with the puzzles on their own, introduce one puzzle set to the class. Show students the puzzle piece with the rime on it. Help students sound out the letters of the rime and say it out loud as a class.

Ask students to identify the illustrations and words on the corresponding pieces. Say the words out loud so students can become familiar with the concept of word families.

Continue until all the puzzles in the set have been introduced. Once children are familiar with the pieces in the set, you can leave a few puzzles out for independent use.

For easy organization and storage, the back of each puzzle piece is color-coded and corresponds to a vinyl pouch.

Suggested Activities

- Invite a few students to the table. Ask each child to help complete a puzzle from one word family set. When they finish, have them select a puzzle, write the rime and corresponding words on a sheet of paper, and then draw the puzzle picture on their paper. Staple the sheets together to create a class book.

- Select a word family puzzle. Say the rime and corresponding words aloud. Challenge students to think of other words that belong to the same word family. Write their answers on a sheet of paper to display in the classroom.

Informal Assessment Ideas

- Gather together three puzzles from one set. Mix up all the pieces on a table. Invite a student to complete the puzzles. Take note of the student's ability to understand the concept of word families as she works to complete the puzzles.
- Place a puzzle from one set on a table. Cover the rime shown on the puzzle piece with a sheet of paper. Ask students to complete the puzzle, using the corresponding pieces to give clues to the rime that is being concealed. Ask students to guess aloud. Record their answers and place your notes in their files. Revisit this activity after a few months to see how their skills have developed.