Words Their Way Activities - Keep in a safe place!!

Introduce the Sort – Students cut out the words and just sort the cards by the header cards, such as long I, short I, oddball. At times, you may also see header cards that have a C or a V combination on them. C would stand for consonant and a V would stand for vowel.

Practice the Sort and Write It – Students practice sorting the words and then copy them down in the correct column under the correct rule. Sometimes, you may want to have students practice writing their sort words in cursive.

Draw and Label – Students draw pictures that represent some of their words, to reveal their meanings. Encourage students to think of multiple meanings of even simple words to help build vocabulary, such as park or yard.

Blind Sort – Someone calls the words out to the speller and they have to write it under the correct rule. Do not let the speller see the word, but try and have them visualize the word and how it is spelled.

Writing Sort – Have students write their words in sentences, trying to put as many sort words in a sentence as possible. As another challenge, have students try to combine as many words from one rule into a sentence as possible.

Word Hunts – Have students hunt for their word sort words in a variety of texts, such as the newspaper, magazines, books, or even on billboards while they are riding in the car.

Change Up – Have students use their initial word work patterns, but have them change a letter or letters to make new words that still have the same rules, such as stack, quack, track, shack and so on. Have them come up with additional words to that fit the rules for each column.

Concept Sort – Have students group their words into categories, like words that are verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, etc or a unit of study, such as community words or animal words.

Build a Word – For students who have words made up of multiple morphographs (roots or bases, prefixes, suffixes), have them divide the word into morphographs., or describe the word using its morphographs.

Examples: one who teaches, teach + er = teacher

full of beauty, beauty + ful = beautiful

without hope, hope + less = hopeless