Reading Success Mini-Books

WORD FAMILIES

Twenty Interactive Mini-Books That Help Every Child Get a Great Start in Reading

by Mary Beth Spann
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Introduction

Welcome to Reading Success Mini-Books: Word Families. This book provides a fun and easy way for young children to experience simple rhyming words. Beginning readers will really benefit from completing and collecting all 20 of these little books. When used as a regular part of a balanced approach to literacy—one that includes reading, writing, speaking, and listening—the books will provide children with an easy-to-understand, concrete foundation for rhyming word family mastery.

Research tells us that children learn letter sounds best when they’re presented in a meaningful context. Each rhyming word family mini-book, introduces a group of simple, illustrated words that feature the same-sounding word ending. Each mini-book offers children the chance to practice writing and reading these rhyming words, and provides a simple review activity so children can test themselves on what they’ve learned.

The books’ small size means they are a breeze for young students to complete, store, collect, and keep. They help give children a sense of mastery and ownership over the letter sounds and words they are learning. In a way, these mini-books serve as children’s own print-awareness progress reports. As children successfully work through the books, it’s easy for them to see how each one represents an important step on the road to reading.

Assembling the Mini-Books


2. Cut the page in half along the solid line.

3. Place pages 4/5 on top of pages 2/7 as shown.

4. Fold the pages in half along the dotted line.

5. Check to be sure that the pages are in the proper order and then staple them together along the book’s spine.
How to Use This Book

This book contains 20 rhyming mini-books representing 20 different common rhyming word endings. How you introduce and share these books with children will largely depend on how you introduce rhyming sounds and word endings in general. But no matter how you choose to use them, you’ll find these mini-books to be small but powerful page-turners. Here are some ideas for putting them to work in your classroom:

Pre-assemble Mini-Books as Needed

Instead of asking children to assemble these books in class, you may want to assemble a complete class set ahead of time. This prep-step allows students to focus their attention on the mini-books’ content, rather than on construction. Remember: Parents who are unable to volunteer in the classroom may welcome this task as something they can work on at home.

Let the Books Serve You

Here are some quick tips for making the mini-books a successful part of your reading routine:

- If you prefer whole-class instruction—at least for your introductory lessons—you may choose to have each student, or small groups of students, work on the same word-family mini-book simultaneously.

- For a more individualized approach, in which each child explores rhymes at his or her own rate, you may make the books available to children on an “as-needed” basis. Perhaps you can set up a rhyme-time learning center, stocked with a supply of mini-books in numbered envelopes. When individualizing, keep a mini-book checklist showing which ones each child has completed. Be certain to schedule student/teacher conferences so you can assess and celebrate children’s progress.

- As children learn how to read and spell the words in the books, consider transferring the words to word wall lists. Invite children to write and illustrate additional words for each list. Encourage children to refer to their mini-books and/or word walls when writing stories and books of their own.
Introducing the Mini-Books in Class

1. Show children how a book is constructed and what they are expected to do on each page.

2. Work through one mini-book together.
   a. Read the cover together. Demonstrate how to use the “Name” line. Call attention to the configuration of the letters printed there.
   b. Call attention to the picture and word on each page. When children correctly identify a picture by reading the word, invite them to explain their reading strategies. In doing so, you are asking children to pay attention to the print features of the word below the picture.
   c. Demonstrate how to copy the word on the line provided. Suggest to children that if they think they already know how to spell the word, they can try and cover the word below the picture and write the word without peeking.
   d. Show how the back-cover activity serves as a self-checking review page. (Tip: The back cover can also serve as a screening page. If you suspect a child already knows how to read, spell, and write all the words in a mini-book, you can ask him or her to complete this page before completing the whole book. That way you’ll know if the child needs to move on to a mini-book that is at a more appropriate instructional level.)

Recommended Read

In his comprehensive resource book, *Phonics From A to Z: A Practical Guide* (Scholastic Professional Books, 1998), reading expert Wiley Blevins recommends a phonics sequence for introducing letters and sounds. Because this must-have book offers explanations and rationales for all aspects of phonics instruction, it is very helpful in guiding the use of phonics mini-books.
**Mini-Book Extensions**

- Meet periodically with each student to review mini-books together. To organize their mini-book collections, give each child a large metal loose-leaf ring. Punch a hole in the upper left-hand corner of each completed mini-book and slip each one onto the ring. Store collections in a multi-pocketed shoe bag (hanging on the wall or from a doorknob), or hung on wall hooks.

- A tree trunk and branches decorated with a few paper leaves makes a nice bulletin board backdrop for displaying new books (before adding them to the rings). Just tack individual books to the branches so they resemble leaves. Title your display “Leaf Through a Mini-Book!”

- Set aside class time for children to take turns sharing one book of their choice.

- Designate one day a week as “Mini-Book Take-Home Day” so children can share their growing library with family members.

- Provide blank mini-books so children can write and illustrate their own rhyming-word collections. Have children compile books of real and/or silly rhyming words.

**Generating Family Support**

1. When familiarizing families with instructional materials and strategies you plan on using to teach reading and writing, introduce phonics mini-books as part of your overall approach.

2. Emphasize that a well-balanced program includes phonics plus many other strategies for reading, speaking, listening, and writing with children. Share specific examples of how you include these components in your program.

3. Invite families to extend learning at home by reading aloud together every day, by calling attention to any written material that fills their days, and by reviewing school work—including mini-books—with their children.
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

ack

Name ____________________

stack

pack
back

track

tack

quack
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

---

flag

---

rag

Name ____________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bag</th>
<th>Snag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tag</td>
<td>Wag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

ail

snail

mail

Name ___________________________
hail

2

nail

4

tail

7

pail

5
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

- ____________
- ____________
- ain

Name ____________________________

- stain
- brain
chain

train

drain

rain
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

ake

Name

snake

lake
cake

stake

rake

flake
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

Name ____________________________

clam

dam

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jam

swam

ham

ram
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

an

man

ran

Name ____________________________

8

3

1
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

My Book of Words Ending in **ane**

Name __________________________

---

vane

---

crane

---
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

My Book of Words Ending in **ape**

---

**ape**

---

**grape**

---

**cape**

---
ape

scrape

nape
tape
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

spray

jay

Name
hay

tray

pay

clay
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

ell

Name _______________________

yell

fell
bell

shell

2

7

sell

well

4

5
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

---

ill

---

Name

---

drill

---

bill
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

---

**My Book of Words Ending in**

*ing*

---

Name ____________________________

---

*string*

---

*ring*
king

swing

sing

wing
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

ink

sink

rink

Name ____________________________
ink

drink

shrink

wink
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

---

1. Tip
2. Hip

Name

---
dip
lip
flip
rip
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

__________

ock

Name _____________________________

1

clock

lock

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dock

rock

flock

block
My Book of Words Ending in op

Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

______

op

______

Name

______

8

_____ top

______

6

_____ hop

______

3
cop
stop
mop
pop
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

own

8

My Book of Words Ending in own

Name

1

clown

gown

6

3
down
crown
town
brown
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

_________

_________

ug

8

My Book of Words Ending in ug

Name

1

_________

_________

rug

hug

6

3
Add a letter or letters to make a real or silly rhyming word. Draw a picture to go with it.

1. ___________
2. ___________
3. ___________
4. ___________
5. ___________
6. ___________
7. ___________
8. ___________

Name _______________________

lump

dump
bump

pump

hump

jump