

Curricular Materials — Sound/Spelling Relationships

To ensure that students develop knowledge of consonant and vowel sound/spelling correspondences of English, that is the sounds spellings make, the authors developed Essential Word Knowledge (EWK), a scope and sequence of skills for teaching students of any age or ability. Of particular importance is the accurate perception of the sounds that vowels make.

In addition to becoming proficient in recognizing and producing sound/spelling correspondences, efficient reading and spelling demand that students learn to be sensitive to — and to apply — the alphabetic principle. For that reason, EWK uses a technique termed phonetic analysis to teach how words, and letter patterns contained in words, map onto speech sounds.

Materials include instructions for creating consonant and vowel card packs. Precision Teaching techniques are used to develop and measure proficiency, starting with consonants. Vowel instruction consists of several exercises through which thorough knowledge and accurate perception of the vowel system are achieved. These exercises begin with classification of vowels into an 18-sound system and conclude with an extended system that includes alternate spellings.

Being convinced that these are essential skills in reading and spelling, the authors provide these materials without a subscription.