

Word Chaining

Focus Area: Phonics

Timing: 5-10 minutes

Materials:

- List(s) of words with one sound change

Procedure:

- Say the first word in the chain and have students repeat the word. Then, have them spell the word with letter cards or tiles.
- Next, tell them they have to change one sound to make a new word, and give them the new word. After they spell it, have them read the new word.
 - “Say ‘*dog*’. Now spell *dog*.” d-o-g
 - “Change *dog* to *hog*.” h-o-g
 - “Change *hog* to *hop*.” h-o-p
 - “Change *hop* to *hip*.” h-i-p
 - “Change *hip* to *his*.” h-i-s

OR

- “Say ‘*dog*’. Now spell *dog*.” d-o-g
- “Instead of /d/, say /p/.” h-o-g
 - What’s the word?
- “Instead of /g/, say /p/.” h-o-p
 - What’s the word?
- “Instead of /o/, say /i/.” h-i-p
 - What’s the word?
- “Instead of /h/, say /s/.” h-i-s
 - What’s the word?
- It’s important NOT to tell students which letter to change; they need to hear it!
- Begin by changing initial sounds, then final sounds, then medial sounds.
- To make it more difficult, you can use blends and add or leave out sounds (e.g., change snack to sack; change clash to slash)
- Once students can do this, you can mix up the changes.