Looking In Depth At The English Spelling System Within Word Pattern Spelling Stage: Words Their Way, Level C

'In the Within Word Pattern Stage, students must employ a higher degree of abstract thinking because they face two tasks at once. They must segment words into phonemes to determine the sounds they hear and need to represent and must choose from a variety of patterns that represent the same phoneme and usually involve silent letters (cute, boat, suit) or special consonant patterns (lodge, itch)."
(Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction, 4th ed., 2008, p. 174)

Sort	Key Content Knowledge About Our Spelling System
Sort 1	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	V=vowel and C=consonant.
Long Vowel Patterns CVCe	 Every vowel has two sounds commonly referred to as <i>long</i> and <i>short</i>. The five short vowels can be heard at the beginning of these words: apple, Eddy, igloo, octopus, and umbrella. Short vowels can be marked with a breve (ă) to denote their unique pronunciation. The long vowel sounds say their letter names and can be marked with a macron (ā). A second vowel (e) is used to mark a particular sound and is called a silent vowel marker. A silent letter "e" at the end of a word often signals of the preceding vowel letter, as in the difference between "rid" and "ride." The silent "e" makes the vowel "say" its name; sometimes this rule is called the "magic e rule." Possible oddballs (not listed) could include <i>prince</i>, <i>dance</i>, and <i>fence</i>. Although these words appear to have a long vowel pattern the e is there to mark the soft /c/. (See Sort 10) Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVeq9a4dFIU
	(Wikipedia) (Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, Words Their Way Word Sorts for Within Word Pattern Spellers, 2008, p. 176)
Sort 2	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
Long Vowel Patterns CVVC ai, oa, ee, ea, ui, oo	 CVVC: When two vowels are together they make a different sound. Vowel Digraphs – two adjacent vowels in a syllable that represent one speech sound, such as "ai" for /ā/ as in rain or "oo" as in spoon. The saying, "when two vowels go walking the first one does the talking" holds true only 37% of the time. If you continue to use this phrase, please advise students that this is only sometimes true. The most frequent CVVC pattern for the long "u" sound in a one syllable word is spelled "oo." /oo/ is considered long "u" – it has the same sound as the spelling patterns "ew" and "ue." (Henry, Unlocking Literacy, p.76, 2003) (Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, Words Their Way Word Sorts for Within Word Pattern Spellers, 2008, p. 36)
Sort 3	When teaching this sort, please note the following:

*Spell Check	 Continue focusing on vowel digraphs – two adjacent vowels in a syllable that represent one speech sound, such as "ai" for /ā/ as in rain or "oo" as in
Long Vowel	spoon.
Patterns	"The history of the English language explains why there are so many
VCC-igh and	patterns. For example, <i>igh</i> was once a guttural sound different from long <i>–i</i> ,
Open	but over time pronunciation tends toward simplification while spelling tends to
Syllables – y,	stay the same. Therefore, one long-vowel sound is spelled many different
-ay, -ew, and	ways (Vallins, 1954)."
-ow	After completing Sort 3, administer Spell Check 1a (see WTW Teacher
	Resource Guide Level C page 21 for the list of words and information on
	which sorts to review if students make errors).
	,
	(Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, Words Their Way Word Sorts for Within
	Word Pattern Spellers, 2008, p. 176)
Sort 4	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	"R is the robber".
r-influenced	 The presence of an "r" following a vowel robs the sound from the vowel
Vowel	before it. This causes some words with different short vowels to become
Patterns	homophones (fir/fur) and makes vowels' sounds spelled with "er," "ir," and
ar, ir, or, ur	"ur" indistinguishable in many cases (herd, bird, curd). Even long vowel
	sounds before the "robber r" are not as clear as the same vowels preceding
	other consonants (pair versus pain).
	Note: due to regional differences, some of your students may pronounce
	some of these "or" words with an "ar" sound (such as orange , horrible ,
	Florida, forest, florist, or horror).
	After completing Sort 4, administer Spell Check 1b (see WTW Teacher
	Resource Guide Level C page 21 for the list of words and information on
	which sorts to review if students make errors).
	(Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, Words Their Way: Word Study for
	Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction, 4 th ed., 2008, p. 177)
Sort 5	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
*Spell Check	 Consonant influenced vowels – the "I," "r," and "w" are examples of
	consonants that influence the sound of the vowel.
r-influenced	• The /ôr/ sound can be spelled in different ways: or in form, ore in tore, oar in
Vowel	board, oor in door, and ar in warm.
Patterns	After completing Sort 5, administer Spell Check 1c (see WTW Teacher
are, ire, ore,	Resource Guide Level C page 21 for the list of words and information on
ure, air, ear	which sorts to review if students make errors).
,,	(Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, <i>Words Their Way: Word Study for</i>
Co=+ C	Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction, 4 th ed., 2008, p. 175)
Sort 6	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
Dimbeth a · · · · ·	Diphthongs – A complex speech sound beginning with one vowel sound and
Diphthongs	moving to another within the same syllable Ex. /oi/ in oil creating two subtle
oi, oy, ou, ow	sounds.
Sort 7	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
*Spell Check	 Ambiguous vowels – A vowel sound represented by a variety of different
	spelling patterns, or vowel patterns that represent a variety of sounds.
Ambiguous	The words in the sort all have the same vowel sound -/ó/ - which can be
Vowels	spelled "aw," "au," "al," and "ou."
L	1

aw, au, al, ou

- The most difficult patterns are ambiguous vowels because the sound is neither long nor short, and the same pattern may represent different sounds. Ex. ou in mouth, cough, though, and tough.
- After completing Sort 7, administer Spell Check 2a (see WTW Teacher Resource Guide Level C page 21 for the list of words and information on which sorts to review if students make errors).

(Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction, 4th ed., 2008)

Sort 8 *Spell Check

CK

When teaching this sort, please note the following:

- This sort is an example of the vocabulary strand of the curriculum.
- It is important for students to have opportunities to write the words in the sort in sentences, since the spelling of a homophone is determined by its context.
- Homophones words that sound alike are spelled differently and have different meanings (e.g., bare and bear, pane and pain, forth and fourth).
 - Homophones are often confused with homographs which are words that are spelled the same way, but are pronounced differently and have different meanings. Ex. minute (element of time) and minute (small).
 - Homonyms are words that are spelled the same way and sound the same but have different meanings. Ex. bat (an animal) and bat (used to hit a cricket ball).
- Students may wonder why homophones are included in the English language.
 - "The major goal of the English writing system is not merely to ensure accurate pronunciation of the written word; it is also to convey meaning. If words that sound the same were spelled the same way, their meanings would be harder to differentiate. For example, if we regularize the spelling, then the sentence 'They rode along the rode and, when they reached the lake, they rode across it' would be hard to understand. 'They rode along the road and, when they reached the lake, they rowed' across it makes sense."
- After completing Sort 8, administer Spell Check 2b (see WTW Teacher Resource Guide Level C page 22 for the list of words and information on which sorts to review if students make errors).
- Video:
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HS8IsaAIL-0

(Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, *Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction, 4th ed., 2008) (Carreker, Joshi, Moats, and Treiman, "How Words Cast Their Spell", <i>American Educator*, 2008-2009, pgs. 8-10)

Homophones

Sort 9	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
*Spell Check	Blends are two- or three-letter sequences that are blended together. Although
	the letter sounds are blended together quickly each one is pronounced.
Three-Letter	After completing Sort 9, administer Spell Check 3a (see WTW Teacher
Blends	Resource Guide Level C page 22 for the list of words and information on
scr, str, spr,	which sorts to review if students make errors).
thr, shr, squ	
Sort 10	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	 The "e" at the end of these words keeps the "c" soft but does not affect the
Word	vowel sound.
Endings	 Words ending in ce (dance), ge (edge), ve (leave), and se (sense), have
-ce, -ve, -se	silent "es" associated with the consonant rather than the vowel.
Sort 11	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
\A/! -	Short vowels sometimes need an extra letter.
Words	• In words of one syllable, the sound /j/ is spelled –dge when it comes directly
Endings	after a short vowel (bridge). Otherwise it is spelled <i>-ge</i> (large).
-dge, ge	The short vowel needs the extra letter d. (Double and Double and
Comt 40	(Bertin and Perlman, <i>Preventing Academic Failure</i> , 2007)
Sort 12 *Spell Check	 When teaching this sort, please note the following: Short vowels sometimes need an extra letter.
Spell Check	
Word	 In words of one syllable, the sound /ch/ is spelled –tch when it comes directly after a short vowel (catch), otherwise it is spelled "ch." The short vowel
Endings	needs the extra letter t. There are four common words that are exceptions to
-tch, -ch	this rule; <i>much</i> , <i>such</i> , <i>rich</i> and <i>which</i> .
,	This is the first sort in Level C in which <i>oddballs</i> (or words which don't fit the
	patterns either visually or auditorally) are introduced. Students will notice that
	all the "ch" in all the oddballs, which , rich , much , follow a short vowel
	without an extra letter. Note: Teachers may decide to add oddballs to the
	earlier sorts.
	 After completing Sort 12, administer Spell Check 3b (see WTW Teacher
	Resource Guide Level C page 22 for the list of words and information on
	which sorts to review if students make errors).
Sort 13	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
Contractions	A contraction is one word made from two longer words with some letters A contraction is one word made from two longer words with some letters A contraction is one word made from two longer words with some letters.
Contractions not, will	omitted and replaced with an apostrophe.
iiot, wiii	• "The contraction <i>won't</i> is the only truly irregular contraction. An early form of will was well and it is assumed that won't came from that early form."
	 will was wol, and it is assumed that won't came from that early form." Have students read phrases with contractions and practice writing
	contractions.
	Video:
	o http://www.brainpop.com/english/grammar/contractions/
	(Henry, <i>Unlocking Literacy</i> , 2003, p. 87)
Sort 14	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
*Spell Check	A contraction is one word made from two longer words with some letters
	omitted and replaced with an apostrophe.
Contractions	After completing Sort 14, administer Spell Check 4 (see WTW Teacher
is, have	Resource Guide Level C page 22 for the list of words and information on
	which sorts to review if students make errors).

Sort 15	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	The "doubling rule": in one syllable words ending with one consonant
Adding –ing	preceded by one vowel, double the consonant when adding a vowel suffix
to words	(ship + ing = shipping). Don't double when adding a consonant suffix $(ship + ing + ing$
with	ment=shipment). There are no exceptions to this rule.
VC and VCC	 In words that end with final x, the x is never doubled because it represents
patterns	two consonant sounds /ks/ (waxing, mixed). Final w and y are never doubled
	if preceded by a vowel because they are part of vowel digraphs (drawing,
	player). Words such as draw and play do not actually end with a consonant
	sound.
	(Bertin and Perlman, Preventing Academic Failure, 2007)
Sort 16	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	The "silent e rule": in words ending with silent "e," drop the "e" before a vowel
Adding -ing	suffix. Keep the "e" before a consonant suffix.
to Words	There are more sophisticated words that are exceptions to this spelling rule.
with VCe and	Ex. judgment and acknowledge.
VVC Patterns	(Bertin and Perlman, Preventing Academic Failure, 2007)
Sort 17	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	 Inflected endings – Suffixes that change the verb tense (walks, walked,
Review of	walk ing) or number (dog s , box es) of a word.
Inflected	See the "doubling rule" described in Sort 15 and the "silent e rule" described
ending - ing	in Sort 16 for more information.
Sort 18	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	 The rules for adding vowel suffixes depend on the base word.
Adding –ed	The "silent e rule": in words ending with silent "e," drop the "e" before a vowel
to Words	suffix. Keep the "e" before a consonant suffix.
with VC,	• The doubling rule explains why "mixed" is an "oddball" in WTW. In words that
VCe, VVC,	end with final x, the x is never doubled because it represents two consonant
and VCC	sounds /ks/ (waxing, mixed). Final w and y are never doubled if preceded by
Patterns	a vowel because they are part of vowel digraphs (drawing, player). Words
	such as <i>draw</i> and <i>play</i> do not actually end with a consonant sound.
	(Bertin and Perlman, Preventing Academic Failure, 2007)
	(Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, Words Their Way: Word Study for
	Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction, 4 th ed., 2008)
Sort 19	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	 Irregular verbs are verbs that do not follow the convention of adding "ed" at
Unusual	the end of the verb to form past tense statements. Although there are only
Past-Tense	about 180 past tense verbs in the modern English language, they are the
Words	most commonly occurring verbs.
	 Video: This video shows present, past and present perfect (uses the helping
	verbs has or have)
	o http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vh7dyQB5SRk
Sort 20	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	 Most nouns become plural (to indicate more than one) by adding –"s";
Plural	however, in some cases you add –es when the root word ends in "ch," "sh,"
Endings:	"ss," "s," "z," and "x."
Adding -es	When –es is added to a word, you can "hear" the difference because it adds
1	another syllable to the word (<i>dish</i> becomes dish-es, unlike <i>spoons</i>).

	This is not part of the lesson, but note that nouns ending in "o" sometimes add —s and sometimes add —es (e.g., piano, pianos; tomato, tomatoes). Students should check their dictionaries to be sure.
	(Henry, <i>Unlocking Literacy</i> , 2003, p. 79)
Sort 21	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	 The sort focuses on irregular plurals that do not end with s and do not follow
Unusual	specific rules.
Plurals	 Certain words, however, do follow a pattern: those that end in f form the
	plural by changing f to v and adding es.
	 Deer and sheep are the same for singular and plural.
Sort 22	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
Word Endings -y, -ey, -ie	 A spelling pattern is a group of letters representing a sound. In this lesson students are studying the variety of representations for sound of long "e" at the end of a word - ie, -y and -ey. "Ey" and "ie" are usually nouns.
y, cy, 10	
	"As a general rule: -y is an English suffix, whose function is to create an adjective (usually from a noun, e.g., creamy); -ie was originally a Scottish suffix, whose function is to add the meaning of 'diminutive' (usually from a noun, e.g., beastie).
	So in most cases, where there is dispute over whether a noun takes a -y or
	an -ie ending, the correct answer is –ie. Ex. She's a <i>girly</i> girl, but she's no
	helpless <i>girlie</i> . Other examples to consider are s <i>crunchie</i> , <i>beanie</i> , <i>nightie</i> ,
	and <i>meanie</i> . There are exceptions (e.g., a <i>hippy</i> , an <i>indie</i> band), but where
	specific examples are not given, use -ie for nouns and -y for adjectives."
Sort 23	(http://www.guardian.co.uk/styleguide/y)
30IT 23	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
Plural	 Known as the "y-rule": when adding suffixes to words that end in "y" preceded by a consonant, change the y to an i, unless the suffix begins with an i (cry +
Endings:	ed = cried, cry + ing = crying).
Final -y	(Bertin and Perlman, <i>Preventing Academic Failure,</i> 2007)
Sort 24	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
*Spell Check	 Inflected Endings are suffixes that change the verb tense (walks, walked,
Spell Check	walk ing) or number (dogs, boxes) of a word.
Adding	 After completing Sort 24, administer Spell Check 5 (see WTW Teacher
Inflected	Resource Guide Level C page 22 for the list of words and information on
Endings –s, -	which sorts to review if students make errors).
ed, and –ing	which soits to review it students make chors).
to words	
with Final -y	
Sort 25	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	A compound word: two whole words that are combined to make a new word.
Compound	The meaning of the compound word relates to the two words that make it up.
Words	A compound word is not just two or more words put together.
	 Compound words lay the foundation for explicit attention to syllables.
	 Compound words reinforce the spelling of many high frequency words.
	 There are three types of compound words:
	 Closed: breakfast (the two smaller words break and fast form one whole word).
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Open: milk shake (the two smaller words milk and shake are separated by a space). o Hyphenated: twenty-five (the two smaller words twenty and five are joined by a hyphen). Different dictionaries may spell different versions of the same compound word. Video: o http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVIHVSJ4fII (Bolton and Snowball, Teaching Spelling, 1993) Sort 26 When teaching this sort, please note the following: *Spell Check See Sort 25 for more information on compound words. Emphasize that some of the compound words in this sort are difficult to define More because they do not name specific nouns or verbs. Compound These compound words are examples of those learned best by using context. Words After completing Sort 26, administer Spell Check 6 (see WTW Teacher Resource Guide Level C page 22 for the list of words and information on which sorts to review if students make errors). When teaching this sort, please note the following: Sort 27 Teachers can take the opportunity to discuss the difference between open and closed syllables. (See Level B for more on teaching open and closed **Syllable** Juncture in syllables.) VCV and An open syllable (CV and CVV) ends with a vowel and the vowel sound is VCCV long (pre, co, bi). **Patterns** A closed syllable (CVC and CVCC) ends with or is "closed" by one or more consonants and the vowel sound is short (con, un, ment) You can tell students that when you "close the door" on the syllable, the consonant(s) blocks the vowel so that it can't stretch out and must remain "short". Teachers will need to show students how to identify the syllable break in each word. Students will be focusing on the pattern in the middle of each word. It may be helpful to review the "rabbit rule": o "The word rabbit divides between the two consonants, rab/bit. The first syllable, rab, is closed, and the vowel is pronounced as a short a. The word label divides before the consonant, la/bel. The first syllable, la, is open, and the vowel is pronounced with a long a sound. Known as the "rabbit rule," it's a simple formula to remember: in a two-syllable word, there's a double consonant in the middle after a short vowel." It is helpful to have students also notice which words contain long vowels and which contain short vowels. o Busy is an oddball because it looks like an open syllable, (VCV) but is a closed syllable with the sound of short i. (Bertin and Perlman, Preventing Academic Failure, 2007) When teaching this sort, please note the following: Sort 28 Review information in Sort 27 (see above) as it also pertains to this sort. More Water is an oddball because wa is an open syllable, but makes a short Syllable sound. Junctures in VCV and

V00V	
VCCV Patterns	
Sort 29	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
3011 29	Review information in Sort 27 (see above) as it also pertains to this sort
Syllable	1 Neview information in Soft 27 (see above) as it also pertains to this soft.
Juncture in	
VCV and	
VVCV	
Patterns	
Sort 30	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
	See Sort 27 for more information.
Syllable	Blends are two- or three-letter sequences that are blended together. Although
Juncture in	the letter sounds are blended together quickly, each one is pronounced.
VCCCV and	Consonant digraphs are two adjacent consonants in a syllable that represent
VV Patterns	one speech sound, such as sh, ch, th, and wh.
Sort 31	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
*Spell Check	 This sort focuses on the inflected endings –ed and –ing.
	 Inflected Endings are suffixes that change the verb tense (walks, walked,
Open and	walk ing) or number (dog s , box es) of a base word (a word to which prefixes
Closed	and/or suffixes can be added and that can stand on its own), but they do not
Syllables and	change the meaning or part of speech of the word.
Inflected	See Sort 15 (doubling rule) and Sort 16 (silent e rule).
Endings	 After completing Sort 31, administer Spell Check 7 (see WTW Teacher
	Resource Guide Level C page 22 for the list of words and information on
	which sorts to review if students make errors).
Sort 32	When teaching this sort, please note the following:
_	A spelling pattern is a group of letters representing a sound. In this sort
Long a	students are studying the variety of representations for the long "a" in
Patterns in	accented syllables.
Accented	It is important to show students how to identify the syllable break in each
Syllables	word. Students will also be noticing which syllables are accented and which
	are unaccented. An <i>accented syllable</i> is the one that is emphasized. An
	unaccented syllable is the one in which the spelling of the vowel is not clearly
	long or short.
	Review how to tell which syllable is stressed or emphasized. Students will
	sort words into two columns. Some words will have the <i>emphasis</i> on the long
	vowel (or open syllable) in the first syllable (e.g., <i>maybe</i>) and some will have
	the emphasis in the second syllable (e.g., <i>parade</i>).
	 Students can clap once if the first syllable is accented and twice if the second syllable is accented. Students can also consider which
	syllable "sounds louder".
	 If students are having difficulty with this, they can rest a hand lightly
	under their chin (at the edge). The chin descends more for the
	accented syllable!
	Chocolate is an oddball because it has a long "a" final syllable that
	looks like it should be pronounced <i>late</i> but has the short "a" sound.
	(Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston and Templeton, Words Their Way: Word Study for
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	Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction, 4 th ed., 2008) (Carreker, Joshi, Moats, and Treiman, "How Words Cast Their Spell", America Educator, 2008-2009)
Sort 33 Long i Patterns in Accented Syllables Sort 34	 When teaching this sort, please note the following: Review information in Sort 32 (see above) as it also pertains to this sort. This sort also involves identifying the accented and unaccented syllables in words. Lead students to understand that the long vowel sound of "i" is always found in the accented syllable. The oddballs – favorite, forgive all have final syllables that look like they should be long "i" but are pronounced with short "i" sound. When teaching this sort, please note the following: Review information in Sort 32 (see above) as it also pertains to this sort. This
Long o patterns in Accented Syllables	 Review information in Soft 32 (see above) as it also pertains to this soft. This sort also involves identifying the accented and unaccented syllables in words. Lead students to understand that the long vowel sound of "o" is always found in the accented syllable. The oddball <i>bureau</i> sounds like long "o" is in the final syllable but is spelled with <i>eau</i> and is not accented. <i>Europe</i> is spelled with the long "o" pattern in the second syllable but has the accent on the <i>Eur</i> syllable.
Sort 35 Long u patterns in Accented Syllables	 When teaching this sort, please note the following: Review information in Sort 32 (see above) as it also pertains to this sort. This sort also involves identifying the accented and unaccented syllables in words. Lead students to understand that the long vowel sound of "u" is always found in the accented syllable.
Sort 36 *Spell Check Short and Long e Patterns in Accented Syllables	 When teaching this sort, please note the following: Review information in Sort 32 (see above) as it also pertains to this sort. This sort also involves identifying the accented and unaccented syllables in words. Lead students to understand that the vowel sound of "e" is always found in the accented syllable whether it is long or short. After completing Sort 36, administer Spell Check 8 (see WTW Teacher Resource Guide Level C page 22 for the list of words and information on which sorts to review if students make errors).