

Tool:	Word Wall in Language Arts
Category:	Reading
Urban Specialist:	Ellen Hatcher
School Level:	Elementary K-2
Target Audience:	Novice teachers, Veteran Teachers
References:	Cunningham, Patricia, & Allington, Richard.(1999). Classrooms That Work. They Can All Read and Write. Addison Wesley Educational Publishers. United States.

Rationale: Support the teaching of important general principles about words and how they work :

Foster reading and writing

Provide reference support for children during their reading and writing

Promote independence on the part of young students as they work

Description: A word wall is a systematically organized collection of words displayed in large letters on a wall or other large display place in the classroom. It is a tool to use, not just display. Word walls are designed to promote group learning and be shared by a classroom of children.

GUIDELINES: *Add words gradually, five a week

*Make words very accessible by putting them where every student can see them, writing them in big, black letters, and using a variety of background colors so that the most often-confused words (there, their: what, when) are different colors.

*Be selective about what words go on the wall, limiting additions to those really common words which children use a lot in writing

*Practice those words by chanting and writing them

*Do a variety of review activities to provide enough practice so that words are read and spelled correctly in any writing the students do

CONSTRUCTION OF A WORD WALL:

Materials:

6X3 colored index cards (150)

Rubber cement
Word Processing Program
Laminator

Use the words on your particular level

Procedure: 1) Using a word processor, type each word on the Frequency Word List using words 1-150. I used the Helvetica Black font at the size 125.

2) Print, cut out in the configuration of each word, glue to colored index cards (size 6X3) and laminate. Be sure to use different colors of index cards for most often-confused words.

3) Choose a place in the room where every student can see all the words. Put the alphabet headings, A-Z, at the top of the wall or bulletin board.

4) Start at the beginning of the list, add 5 words to the Word Wall each week. Words are placed alphabetically on the wall by 1st letter.

5) Do practice and review activities so that words are read and spelled instantly and automatically.