

The Alphabetic Principle, Grade K

Conducting the activity

As stated earlier, the goal of the "How the Alphabet Works" activities is to acquaint students with the alphabetic principle. This particular activity reinforces the fact that if you change the letters in a word, both the word and the meaning change. In addition, the students are actively engaged and can see very clearly that the order of each word's letters is vital and that words are written from left to right. Mrs. Martinez carefully guides the students through the activity. She:

1. Writes a word on the board.
2. Tells students what the word is.
3. Spells the word with students, touching each letter as she proceeds.
4. Calls the letter experts to stand in front of the word with their letters.
5. Assigns the vowel.
6. Spells the word again.
7. Emphasizes that a change in letters changes the word by replacing the initial letter, thus changing the word from *most* to *post*.
8. Spells the new word with the students.
9. Demonstrates that the same set of letters can spell more than one word by changing the order of the letters to make a new word. This also emphasizes the importance of letter order.
10. Spells the new word with the students.

Note especially that Mrs. Martinez spells each word slowly and carefully while touching the letters and referring to the cards the letter experts are holding. At this point the students are only required to concentrate on the letter names and the way the letters work to make words. They are not yet concerned with the sounds of the letters.

For a corresponding lesson in ***SRA Imagine It!***, see:

- ***SRA Imagine It!***, Level K, Unit 3, Lesson 8, page T117.

In ***SRA Imagine It!***, students have already begun learning sound/letter correspondences. However, as the alphabetic principle is still new to students, the focus of the activity should remain on letter names and the way the letters work to make words.