



Mastering Word Families: Simple Patterns for Early Readers

Reading gets a whole lot easier once kids start seeing patterns instead of just single letters. When a child learns how a simple two-letter ending works—like it or an—a whole collection of words suddenly makes sense.

These little endings are called word families. By keeping the tail end of the word the same and swapping out the first letter, kids move from slow, letter-by-letter sounding out to reading full words with real confidence.

How to Use These Activity Cards

Step 1: Focus on the Ending

Have your child start by saying the two-letter ending on its own (like it).

Step 2: Add the First Letter

Place a starting letter in front of the chunk. Have them say the first letter's sound, then slide right into the ending (s plus it becomes sit).

Step 3: Swap and Build

Keep that ending chunk right where it is and change the first letter to build brand-new words (fit, hit, pit).

Quick Helper Tip

If your child gets stuck, cover the first letter with your finger. Have them read the ending chunk out loud first, uncover the starting letter, and then slide the two parts together

c

a

t

i

o

g

d

a

n

b

o

t

w

u

g

k

e

+

v

o

p

n

i

+

t

p

f

a

h

r

s

g

j

h

r

m