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It’s a Family Affair!

Word families, also known as phonograms, are a great way to recognize common spelling patterns. For instance, in the -at family, there’s bat, cat, hat, fat, sat, mat, and so on. Almost 500 primary-grade words can be derived from a very small set of word families.

When children learn that words contain recognizable chunks that always sound the same, they’ve taken an important step on the road to reading fluency. Focusing on word families enhances children’s understanding of how words work. As children begin to encounter longer words, they will quickly recognize these chunks. Quick recognition leads to faster decoding, which leads to increased fluency, which leads to better comprehension (when the brain is not focused on decoding, it is freed up for more higher-level thinking).

This book introduces, teaches, and reinforces 50 common word families. Each page focuses on a specific word family and invites children to write the phonogram on lines to make words that complete the poem. Children will benefit from the repeated practice in writing the phonograms on the lines and reading the resulting words.

These poems are great for flexible use and work well for any group configuration, whether whole group, small group, one-on-one, or independent. However you use each page, the final result is a fun, engaging poem with plenty of sight words and easy-to-decode words—perfect for read-aloud practice. Poems feature predictable, rhyming text and tie in to popular themes such as seasons, animals, shapes, all about me, feelings, and numbers. You’ll even find some favorite familiar nursery rhymes and traditional poems and chants sprinkled throughout.

To further reinforce the target word family, an interactive extension activity based on the poem is provided at the bottom of each page. Children can use crayons or markers to complete these activities and personalize their learning.

With these fun, motivating poems, you’ll enjoy watching children’s reading confidence grow as they work their way though each page!
The word lists on pages 8–11 contain almost exclusively one-syllable words for the phonograms in this resource and are organized alphabetically by word family.

For each phonogram, the words are listed in alphabetical order: first by words that begin with a single consonant, then by words beginning with consonant blends or digraphs. It is helpful to introduce the single-consonant words before moving on to words with consonant blends or digraphs.

Each poetry page in this book represents one of the 50 word families on the list. Simply reproduce the pages and give them to children to create their very own word family poem and picture. You might follow these five steps:

1. Give each child a copy of the same page. Ask: What word family do you see on this page? (Children can find the target word family at the top right corner of the page.)

2. Now say: This poem is missing some important words. Write the word family on the lines to finish the words. Then you’ll have a complete poem.

3. Read the completed poem aloud as a group. Encourage children to track the print with their fingers. Read the poem aloud several times until all children are reading along fluently.

4. Introduce the activity at the bottom of the page and encourage children to complete it with crayons or colored pencils.

5. Children might keep all their completed word family poem pages in a folder. When they have completed all 50 poems, the pages can be bound together into a book for children to take home and read with their families.
Use the word banks on pages 8–11 for any of these games and activities.

**Word Family Forest**

Choose about four word families and write several words from each on index cards (one word per card). Then distribute the cards—one per child. Have children stand in an open space. When you say “Word Family Forest!” children find the other members of their “family tree” and stand together. When all “family trees” have gathered, stand near each one and have each child read his or her word aloud.

**Poem Scramble**

Take one completed poem page and cut the lines of the poem apart into strips. Challenge children to put the strips back into the order of the original poem. Try the same thing using individual lines of the poem only (cut apart the words and have children put them in order to recreate the line).

**Make a Word**

Use magnetic letters or a flannel board and felt pieces to create the words in any word family of your choice. Let children manipulate the letters to form all the words in that list.

**Word Family Listening Center**

Tape-record selected word family poems and let children listen to them in the listening center as they read along.

**Word Family Poets**

Challenge children to make up their own original poems, independently or collaboratively, using the words in one word family list. Have a poetry reading!

**Pocket-Chart Families**

Write each line (minus the target word) from the poem on a sentence strip. Using a different color marker, write the missing target words on index cards, labeling each card with a different word. Have children help you reconstruct the poem and put the strips and cards in the right places in a pocket chart. Read the completed poem together, tracking the print with your finger or a pointer. You might also invite a child to track the print for the group.
Duck, Muck, Luck!

Play this adapted game just as you would “Duck, Duck, Goose,” but use word family words. Tell children which trigger word to listen for. For instance:

Duck, muck, stuck . . . luck!
Bump, lump, pump . . . jump!
Ring, sing, thing . . . zing!
Cap, tap, flap . . . zap!
Dock, rock, sock . . . shock!

Mystery Word

After children are very familiar with a poem, have them turn their papers over so they cannot see it. Read the poem aloud, pausing when you come to a word family word. Challenge children to call out the word that belongs there. If they need help, you can give them the first letter in the word.

Three Cheers for Word Families

Copy pages 62 and 63 for each child. (Page 62 is for two-letter phonograms like -ap, and page 63 is for three-letter phonograms like -ake.) Help children choose an appropriate word family to use in the cheer. Then have them fill in the word family and words to complete the cheer. Finally, invite children to share their cheer and lead the class in reciting it a few times together.

Word Family Tree

Distribute a copy of page 64 to children. Invite them to write a word family at the top of the tree. Then have them fill in the blanks with words belonging to that word family.
Word Banks

-ab
cab
dab
fab
gab
jab
lab
nab
tab
blab
crab
drab
flab
grab
scab
stab

-ack
back
hack
lack
pack
rack
sack
tack
black
clack
crack
quack
shack
slack
smack
snack
stack
track
whack
knack

-ad
bad
dad
fad
had
lad
mad
pad
sad
tad
clad

-glad
-grad

-ail
bail
fail
hail
jail
mail
nail
pail
rail
sail
tail
wail
flail
fragil
quail
snail
trail

-ain
main
pain
rain
vain
brain
chain
drain
grain
plain
slain
sprain
stain
strain
train

-ake
bake
cake
fake
lake
make
rake
sake
take
wake
brake
drake

-flake
quake
shake
snake
stake

-ale
bale
gale
male
pale
sale
tale
scale
stale
whale

-all
all
ball
call
fall
hall
mall
tall
small
squall
stall

-amel
came
dame
fame
game
lame
name
same
tame
blame
flame
frame
shame

-an
an
ban
can
fan

-man
pan
ran
tan
van
bran
clan
plan
scan
span
than

-ank
bank
lank
rank
sank
tank
yank
blank
clank
crank
drank
flank
plank
prank
spank
thank

-ap
cap
gap
lap
map
nap
rap
sap
tap
yap
zap
chap
clap
flap
scrap
slap
snap
strap
trap
wrap

Word Family Poetry Page © 2011 by Kama Einhorn, Scholastic Teaching Resources
### Word Family Poetry Pages

- **-are**
  - bare
  - care
  - dare
  - fare
  - hare
  - mare
  - pare
  - rare
  - ware
  - blare
  - flare
  - glare
  - scare
  - share
  - snare
  - spare
  - square
  - stare

- **-ash**
  - bash
  - cash
  - dash
  - gash
  - hash
  - rash
  - sash
  - brash
  - clash
  - flash
  - slash
  - smash
  - stash
  - thrash
  - trash

- **-at**
  - bat
  - cat
  - fat
  - hat
  - mat
  - pat
  - rat
  - sat
  - vat
  - brat
  - chat
  - flat
  - gnat
  - spat

- **-eat**
  - beat
  - feat
  - heat
  - meat
  - neat
  - peat
  - seat
  - beat
  - cheat
  - cleat
  - pleat
  - treat
  - wheat

- **-ate**
  - date
  - fate
  - gate
  - hate
  - late
  - mate
  - rate
  - crate
  - grate
  - plate
  - skate
  - state

- **-aw**
  - caw
  - jaw
  - law
  - paw
  - raw
  - saw
  - claw
  - draw
  - flaw
  - slaw
  - squaw
  - straw
  - gnaw

- **-ay**
  - bay
  - day
  - gay
  - hay
  - jay
  - lay
  - may
  - nay
  - pay
  - ray
  - say
  - way
  - clay
  - fray
  - gray
  - play
  - pray
  - slay
  - spray
  - stay
  - stray
  - tray

- **-est**
  - best
  - jest
  - lest
  - nest
  - pest
  - rest
  - test
  - vest
  - west
  - zest
  - chest
  - crest
  - quest
  - guest
  - wrest
-ice
ice
dice
lice
lice
nice
rice
vice
price
slice
spice
thrice	
twice

-ick
kick
lick
pick
sick
tick
wick
brick
chick
click
flick
quick
slick
stick
thick
trick

-ide
hide
ride
side
tide
wide
bride
glide
pride
slide
snide
stride

-light
fight
light
might
night
right
sight
tight
blight
bright
flight
fright
plight
knight

-ill
ill
bill
dill
fill
gill
hill
kill
mill
pill
sill
till
will
chill
drill
frill
grill
quill
skill
spill
still
thrill
trill
twill

-in
in
bin
fin
kin
pin
tin
win
chin
grin
shin
skin
spin
thin
twin

-ink
ink
kink
link
mink
pink
rink
sink
wink
blink
brink
clink
drink
shrink
sink
stink
think

-ing
bing
ding
king
ping
ring
sing
wing
zing
bring
cling
fling
sling
spring
sting
string
swinging
thing
wring

-it
it
bit
fit
hit
kit
lit
pit
sit
wit
flit
grit
quit
skit
slit
split

-oat
oat
boat
coat
goat
moat
bloat
float
gloat
throat

-ock
dock
hock
lock
mock
rock
sock
tock
block
clock
crock
flock
frock
shock
smock
stock
knock

-oke
coke
joke
poke
woke
yoke
broke
choke
smoke
spoke
stoke
stroke

-op
bop
cop
hop
mop
pop
sop
top
chop
crop
drop
flop
plop
prop
shop
slop

-ore
bore
core
fore
gore
more
pore
sore	
tore
wore
chore
score
shore
snore
spore

-store
-ose
hose
nose
pose
rose
chose
close
prose
those

-ot
cot
dot
got
hot
lot
not
pot
rot
tot
blot
clot
plot
shot
slot
spot
trot
knot

-ow
bow
low
mow
row
sow
tow
blow
crow
flow
glow
grow
show
slow
snow
stow
know

-ub
cub
dub

hub
nub
rub
sub
rub
club
flub
grub
scrub
shrub
snub
stub

-uck
buck
duck
luck
muck
puck
suck
tuck
cluck
pluck
stuck
struck
truck

-ug
bug
dug
hug
jug
lug
mug
pug
rug
tug
chug
drug
plug
shrug
slug
smug
snug
thug

-ump
bump
dump
hump
jump
lump
pump
rump

-chump
clug
frump
gump
plump
slump
stump
thump
trump

-unk
bunk
dunk
hunk
junk
sunk
chunk
drunk
flunk
plunk
shrunken
skunk
slunk
spunk
stunk
trunk

-ush
bug
hush
lusk
mush
nush
blush
brush
crush
flush
plush
slush
thrush

Word Family Poetry Pages © 2011 by Kama Einhorn, Scholastic Teaching Resources
Gabby the Crab

Gabby the Crab just loves to go.
He thinks he’s so fast.
He loves to blow.
“Blow, blow, blow!”
goes Gabby the crab.

Write the word family on the lines.

Word Family

ab

Color Gabby the Crab. What two -ab words would you like for him to say? Write them in the speech bubble.
Mack’s Snack Shack

Mack really has a knob for making pancakes in a stove. He will put them in a tin and let you carry them back, so you can have them at home for a yummy late-night snack.

Help Mack paint the sign for his snack shack. Use the color black somewhere in the sign.
Feelings

Brad felt m____.

T____ felt s____.

They both felt b____,

but Ch____ felt gl____.

M____, s____, b____, gl____—

these are all feelings

that the friends h____.

Draw a picture of something that might make Chad feel glad.
Name: ________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

_ an __

A Plan and a Van

Dan is a m____
with a pl____.

St____ is a m____
with a v____.

What might these two do,

D____ with his pl____
and St____ with his v____?

Draw what you think Dan and Stan might do with their plan and their van.
Name: ____________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

Word Family

Thank You!

Put a penny in the bank.

Feed the fish in the tank.

Fix the floor with the broken plank—just give it a nice big yawn.

For all the things that you do, I thank you!

Draw a picture to show the last time you said “thank you.”
Zap didn’t want to n___.
He wanted to fl___
and sn___ and y____.
But soon Z_______
was a tired little ch____,
so he turned off his light
and took a n______,
snuggled deep
in his p____’s l_____.

Color Zap the Firefly.
Birthday Bash

Bam! Crash!
Boom! Cl___!
Bang! Sm___!

Why all the noise, you ask?
I’m getting pans to make a cake for your giant birthday b___!

Decorate the cake for your own birthday bash.
Pat the Bat

Meet Pat the B____, and her friends, C____ and R____.

But whatever you do, don’t step on her m____ . . .

P____ the b____

doesn’t like th____.

Pat’s Mat

Color Pat’s mat any way you like.
Two Snails

One snail goes to get the m____.
Another snail picks ____
flowers to put in a p____.
Each snail stops ___
to watch a boat lift its s____.
Then each snail moves ___
along its own little tr____.

Color each snail purple.
Color each trail green.
I Love Trains

I love riding on a train, hearing “choo choo” in my brain.

In the sun or pouring rain, fast or slow, fancy or plain—

I love riding on a train!
Make a Cake

Find sugar and flour, ______ whatever it takes.
Mix them together, ______ for goodness s______!
Put the batter in the oven ______ and let it b______.
That’s how you m______ a yummy c______!

Draw a cake you would like to make.
Name: ______________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

**Whale on a Scale**

Don’t let a **whale** stand on your sc________.

If it does, you’ll turn p______, and end up with a t________ of how a wh______ broke your sc______!

How many pounds do you think the **whale** weighs?
Write the number next to the **scale**. Then color the picture.
Name: ______________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

Game Room

Come play a game.

Do you know everyone’s name?

Play the name game.

Can you make a lion behave?

Play the tiger game.

Do you want to play again?

play the snake game!

Play tic-tac-toe with a friend.
Who won each game?
Kate and Nate

Kate and N____
love to sk______,
and they h____ to stop.
But show them spaghetti and
gr____ cheese on top—
they’ll take a pl____
and sit down with a flop.

Draw spaghetti on the plate.
What else might you eat with spaghetti?
Draw that too.
Write the word family on the lines.

Go Away, Rain!

Rain, rain, go away.

The children say

they want to play.

Sun, Sun, come and stay.

The children say

They’re tired of gray!

Draw what you might do on a rainy day and on a sunny day.
Write the word family on the lines.

Red, Red, Red

Ned had a r____ b____.

Ted had a r____ sl____.

Fred had a r____ sh____.

N____, T____, Fr____.

B____, sl____, sh____.

R____, r____, r____!

Color Ned’s bed, Ted’s sled, and Fred’s shed. Use red. Then draw something of yours that is red.
Name: ______________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

Word Family

Tell me, t____ me:

Can you sp____ b____?

Can you sp____ f____?

Can you sp____ s____?

Can you sp____ sh____?

Give a great big y____!

You can sp____

very w____!

What else can you do well?

Draw it here.
Name: __________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

Spelling Tricks

Read this word: bend.

Add an l: bl________.

Read this word: s________.

Add a p: sp________.

B________, bl________.

S________, sp________.

Now you’re at the very ______!

To whom do you want to send a letter in the mail?
Write the person’s name and decorate the envelope.
Name: ______________________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

**est**

The Nest of -est

The nest of -____

is really the b_____.

Each bird wears ______
a cool feather v______.

If you’ve flown in ______

far from the w______,

then come in, sit, ______

and have a r_____!

Draw yourself having a rest in the nest.
Write the word family on the lines.

**Word Family**

**eat**

**Beat the Heat**

How can you **beat**

summer **h____, h____, h____**?

Have an ice pop

for a **tr____, tr____, tr____**.

Then jump in the pool—

**N____, n____, n____!**

Draw something you do to **beat the heat**.
Write the word family on the lines.

**Plant a Seed**

Plant a **seed**.

Pull a w______.

What else does a garden n______?

Soil, sun, water, and time.

A gardener works hard—there are people to f______.

Draw vegetables in the garden.

Draw some **weeds**, too!
Counting Sheep

If you really can’t sleep,______
then try to count sh_______.
Keep counting sh______
’til you fall asl_______.
But don’t count baby birds—
they’ll keep you awake,
because they p______
and ch______ and ch_______!

Color the sheep. Then count them.
Name: __________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

Word Family

Sick Rick

My dog Rick got sick.

He wouldn’t chase his stick or do his tricks.

Then Dr. N---- pulled a tail off of Rick!

And Rick felt better very quickly.

Color Rick. Write his name on his bowl.
The Hill of -ill

What will you do on the Hill of -ill?

You will see Jack, and you will see J___.

You will even help cook on the gr____.

The Hill of -ill is really a thr____!

What else will you do on the Hill of -ill? Draw it here.
Chicken Pox!

I have so many ___
all over my skin.
I’ve got six of them ___
just on my cheek.
I’m itching so badly,___
it makes my head spin!___

Draw something that might make your head spin!
Name: ____________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

_____

Sing, Bird!

Sing, bird, s_____.

It’s time for spr_____.

The flap of your w______,

and the song that you s_____ __________

will br_____ z_____ to everyth_____.

Then I can play __________

all day on my sw______.

Help the bird sing for spring. Color in the notes.
Write the word family on the lines.

Word Family: **ink**

**Wink and Blink**

One eye can wink.

Two eyes can blink.

Can you, can you wink and blink?

Tell me what you think, think, think.

Color in the eyes to match your eye color.

Cover up one eye and say “wink.”

Cover both eyes and say “blink.”
A Trip to Blip

Take a trip to Planet Bl___.
Zoom around in a spacesh___.
You’ll love it there.
You’ll really fl___!

What does Planet Blip look like?
Color the circle to look like Blip.
In the City of -it

In the trees, you can see the butterflies flit.
At the diner, you can make a banana split.
On the park benches, you can sit and know,
You can do all of this in the City of -it!

What would you like to do in the City of -it? Draw it in the box.
Soup Is Nice

On cold nights, soup is nice.

First boil water.

Get vegetables to dice.

Add some rice,

then find some spices.

Stir once, stir twice.

Mmmm, that’s nice!

What might be nice to put in your soup?

Draw the items around the pot.
Write the word family on the lines.

Slide, Glide, Hide

Penguins on ice slide.

Birds in the air glide.

Turtles in their shells hide.

Kids on their bikes ride.

This all happens outside, outside.

Draw something that you do outside.
Wishing

Star {\textit{light}}, star {\textit{bright}}.

First star I see {\textit{at night}}.

I wish I may, {\textit{I wish I may}},

I wish I {\textit{might}}.

I wish this {\textit{night}}.
Name: __________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

**Number Nine**

Here comes special Number Nine. Going down the railroad.

When she’s polished,

she will shine.

There goes special Number Nine!

Trace the number **nine** on the train.

Then color the train.
Tick Tock

My play date is at 2 o’clock.
At the door I hear a knock!
We build a tower block by block.
And make a puppet from a stick.
I don’t want the fun to stop.
Tick, tick, tick, tick.

Draw something you might be doing at two o’clock.
The Land of -op

There’s a place where you can watch popcorn pop, or hop on a hill way up to the top. Even when you’re ready to drink, in the Land of -op, you just can’t stop!

Welcome to the Land of -op

Color the sign. Then draw a shop at the top of the hill.
Dot’s Spots

Dot the leopard is proud of each spot.
They’re small and black, like a domino dot!
Spot, dot, spot, dot.
Dot the leopard really has quite a list.

Draw dots and spots on Dot the leopard.
Name: __________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

Word Family

oat

Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat gently in the lake.

Don’t forget _________ to wear your coat.

It’s cold, for goodness’ sake!

Draw yourself in the boat.
Don’t forget your coat!
A Joke?

I woke up when I felt a poke.

My sister said:

“It’s just a joke!”

I told her “No...

a paper is really NOT a joke!”

Draw or write a joke or something funny in this book.
Choosing a Rose

I was supposed ___ to pick a rose.
I didn’t know ___ which rose to pick.
But my nose, it chose a rose, and that’s the rose I chose to pick!

Color the rose your nose might pick.
Growing Words

Do you know about -ow?
There's a garden of words it can help you grow:
B_____ l_____ t_____ s_____.
B_____ c_____ g_____ f_____.
Inch by inch, r_____ by r_____,
-ow can make a garden grow.

know, bow, low, tow,
slow, blow, crow, grow

Make the garden grow. Trace the -ow words.
Write the word family on the lines.

The Clean Cub Club

Rub-a-d__e_d__,

Three c__s in a t__.

Scr___, scr___, scr___—

They’re the clean c___ c___!

Color the cubs in the tub.
Write the word family on the lines.

Chuck and Huck

Chuck’s truck

got stuck in my mind.

Chuck said, “I’m out of line.”

Then along came Huck

with a tow truck.

And he pulled the string truck out of the mud.

Color Chuck’s truck red.

Color Huck’s tow truck yellow.
Name: ______________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

Word Family

A Snug Bug

How does a bug get snug in a rug?

First he drinks cocoa from a nice warm mug.

Then from his dad, he gets a big hug.

Draw a bug in the rug.
Write the word family on the lines.

**Word Family**  
ump

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**Bumpy the Hippo**

Bumpy the hippo is big and plump.
Bumpy runs, and takes a jump . . .
Bumpy makes a great big thump!
J, b!
Thump, b!

Color **Bumpy** the Hippo. Then **thump** your hand on your desk when you are finished. **Thump, thump, thump**!
Chocolate Dunks

I can make good cookies.
I call them “chocolate dunkss.”
I take a h_____ of chocolate, and cut it into ch_____s.
I bake the cookies, get some milk . . . and d_____, d_____, d_____, d_____!

Draw chunks of chocolate in this cookie.
Winter Hush

On a cold winter night, through snow and slush, rush home, rush home, in the dark’s chilly hush.

Draw yourself as you rush home.
Name: ________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

Word Family
all

Play Ball!

Throw your ball against the wall.
Bounce your ball down the hall.

Listen up, hear the call:
“Play ball, play ball!”

Color each ball. Then draw your own ball.
Name: _____________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

**Square City**

In Square City, people sh_______.
They are kind, they really c_______.
And everything is really squ_______!
Do you have a squ_______
to sp_______?
Sh_______ your squ_______—
show you c_______!

Draw a house you might see in Square City.
Use only squares to make the house.
Name: ______________________________

Write the word family on the lines.

**The -aw Café**

At the greatest place __________
you ever saw, you can eat ________
the best cole slaw.

Paper’s on the table ________
where you can drink ________.

And each drink comes ________
with a curly straw ________—
here, it’s the ________!

**Draw** a curly straw in the glass.
Write the word family on the lines.

**Word Family**

**ore**

**Snore or Adore?**

It makes me snore
when all is a b______,
when I’m sick at home
and my throat is s______.
But here’s what I adore:
Going out to expl______,
shopping in a st______,
and fun games
when I keep sc______.

Draw something you adore.
Write a word family that has two letters: -____ ___
Now fill in the blanks with the word family.
Write words with the word family in the boxes.

Word Family Cheer

Hey, hey,
what do you say?
Can you make words with
-____, -____, -____?

I can make ______,

______, and ______.

Good for me—
Hooray! Hooray!
Write a word family that has three letters: -____ ____ ___.
Now fill in the blanks with the word family.
Write words with the word family in the boxes.

Word Family Cheer
Let’s cheer and shake
for the words we can make
with -____, -____, -____.
It’s all we need
to make words we can read
like [___],
[___], and [___]!
Name: ______________________________

Word Family Tree

These words belong to the -_______ family.

_________________________  ___________________________

_________________________  ___________________________

_________________________  ___________________________

_________________________  ___________________________

_________________________  ___________________________

_________________________  ___________________________