

WORD Force: Family Game Guide

Families, use this guide to learn more about the 15 games in WORD Force, understand the skills they each cover, and find fun ideas to help your student practice!

WORD Force Game Structure:

The 15 games are grouped into five sets. These five sets are intentionally grouped along a developmental trajectory for beginning readers.

Game Set 1

- Sprouting Sounds: Beginning & Ending Sounds
- Raise-a-Rhyme: Rhyming Words
- The Veggie Village: Letter Sound/Letter Name

Game Set 2

- Wandering Words: Phonetically Regular Words
- Cotton Candy Breakdown: Phoneme Segmentation
- Stellar Speller: Word Building with Onsets and Rimes

Game Set 3

- Icy Letter Ladders: Spelling
- Conserve a Word: Sight Words
- The Robot Recycler: Building Words with Digraphs

Game Set 4

- The Suffix Summit: Inflectional Endings
- The Littered Lagoon: Long Vowels
- Word Force Adventures: Reading Comprehension with Mixed Up Sentences

Game Set 5

- The Dictionary Dig: Vocabulary
- Sea Stories: Short Story Building
- Solar Sentences: Reading Comprehension Commands



Sprouting Sounds: Beginning & Ending Sounds

In this mission, students will join The Clump in an adventure to plant new trees in the forest. They will hear beginning and ending sounds and identify the matching hidden pictures. This game will help students gain confidence in identifying words that have the same beginning or ending sounds.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Ask me to show you finger tapping to help me spell a word and find the beginning and ending sounds.
- Read a book aloud with me. Choose a beginning sound or ending sound for me to listen for on a page. It's ok if the sounds are made by different letters (e.g. /s/ like silly or /c/ like city). The important part is hearing the sound.
- Work together with me to make a list of words that begin or end with the same sound as my name.

Raise-a-Rhyme: Rhyming Words

In this mission, students will join The Clump in building a house for the McWhisker family. They will hear a word and identify another word that rhymes with it in order to get the tools they need to build the house. This game will help students feel confident in identifying rhyming pairs.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Collect common household objects and help me come up with a list of words that rhyme/are in the same word family as those items.
Suggestions: Pan, hat, sock, cup, mug, & bed
- Read aloud poetry together and identify the rhyming words.
Kid-Friendly Poets: Dr. Seuss, Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein, Judith Viorst, & Roald Dahl

The Veggie Village: Letter Sound/Letter Name

In this mission, students will join Unicorn Man in planting a community garden. They will listen to the sound and select the matching letter or letters to turn on the water hose. This game will help students gain confidence in matching English sounds with their letter representations.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

Letter Baskets Hunt

Work together with me to collect a variety of household objects that begin with the same letter. Talk with me about what letter it is AND what sound that letter makes.

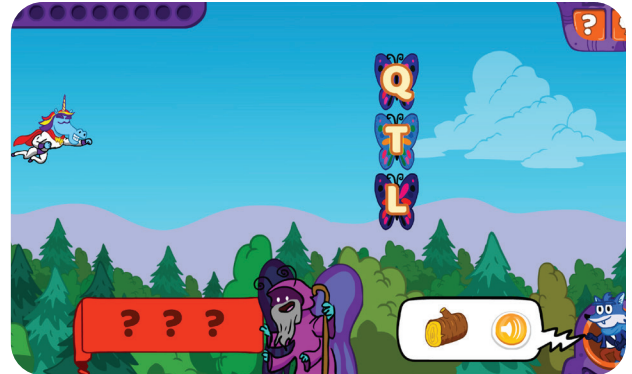
Match the Sound

Get a set of magnetic letters or alphabet cards and lay them out in front of me. You say a sound, but don't say the letter. See if I can find the letter.

Wandering Words: Phonetically Regular Words

In this mission, students will join Unicorn Man on a journey to lead the butterflies along their migration path.

They will see and hear a word and spell that word by gathering the butterflies. This game will help students learn to spell phonetically regular words such as cap and hug.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** Phonetically regular words are sometimes also called “CVC” words. They are words with a consonant-vowel-consonant pattern. The vowel in the middle is always short.

Examples of CVC words:

- rat
- pen
- dip
- jog
- mud

- Fun ways to practice spelling CVC words with me:
 - Make them out of playdough
 - Trace them in sand or shaving cream
 - Go on a word hunt looking for them in books
 - Play “Pictionary”

Cotton Candy Breakdown: Phoneme Segmentation

In this mission, students will join Captain Taco in an urgent call to save the city from the cotton candy monsters. They will hear a word broken into its segmented sounds and try to find the hidden picture that matches the sounds to clean up the cotton candy mess. This game helps students to develop phonemic awareness skills by listening to words segmented into phonemes (/b/ /a/ /t/) and matching the segmented sounds with the corresponding word.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** Phoneme segmentation is the ability to break down words into their sound parts (e.g. mat = /m/ /a/ /t/)
- Use magnetic letters, letter tiles, or cards to make words. Help me read the words by moving or touching one letter at a time as we say the sound that the letter makes.
 - Make sure words are three letters long with a short vowel in the middle.
 - Words can be real or nonsense.

Stellar Speller: Word Building with Onsets and Rimes

In this mission, students will join Tina the Turtle to repair the WORD Force communication satellites. They will hear a word and see part of the word already on the satellite. They will repair the satellite by completing the word. This game helps students develop skills in spelling words with common spelling patterns by matching onsets and rimes (e.g., b+ake = bake).



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** Onset is the first sound of a word (e.g. /m/ in mat). Rime is the rest of the word (e.g. /at/ in mat). These concepts apply to one-syllable words or to single syllables.
- Purchase or make onset and rime cubes.
 - Roll the two dice with me and have me read the word altogether as well as separate out the onset and rime.
 - Talk with me about if it's a real word or a nonsense word.

Icy Letter Ladders: Spelling

In this mission, students will join Octavia the Octopus in an adventure to reunite polar bear families. They will be tasked with changing one sound in a word to another to build an ice ladder so the polar bear can cross the icebergs and get to its babies. This game will help students develop knowledge of relationships among words by manipulating a letter in one word to spell a new word.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** A word family is a group of words that end with the same sound but begin with different sounds. (e.g. got, hot, and not are all in the '-ot' word family)
- Word family hunt - Choose one word family and look for words that belong in it in books, magazines, newspapers, etc.
- Letter play - Write a word family on a piece of paper. Get a set of magnetic letters or alphabet cards and have me put them one at a time in front of the word family. Ask me to read and spell the word I made.
- Spelling - Show me how to spell one word in a word family, and then ask me to spell other words in that same word family.
- Word families to work with:
 - -am
 - -ap
 - -at
 - -an
 - -in
 - -it
 - -ip
 - -ig
 - -op
 - -ot
 - -en
 - -et
 - -ug
 - -ub

Conserve-a-Word: Sight Words

In this mission, students will join The Clump in a quest to turn off all the lights and save energy. They will briefly see and hear a word and then go into each building to spell the word correctly, which will turn the lights off in that building. This game will help students develop knowledge of high frequency and sight words by hearing and seeing words and then spelling them.

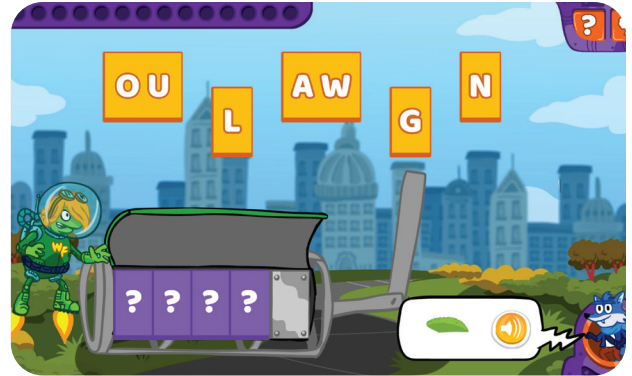


Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** Sight words are words that we see a lot in reading and spell a lot in writing, but they don't follow the rules of spelling.
- Make flashcards with each of the sight words on them. See how fast I can read the word.
- Write my sight words on sticky notes and put them on the fridge. Have me read the words and give them a high five when I walk by.
- Have me spell my words using fingerprint, chalk, shaving cream, or playdough.
- If I love to jump and move, have me jump rope and say a letter to spell a sight word for each jump.

The Robot Recycler: Building Words with Digraphs

In this mission, students will join Tina the Turtle in a task to fix the city's recycling robot. They will hear the word and see a matching picture and then spell that word on the robot to get it working again. This game will help students develop skills in spelling words with consonant and vowel digraphs.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** Digraphs are two letters that, when combined, make a new sound (e.g. th or sh)
- Help me learn to spell words with digraphs with these activities:
 - Cut out letters from magazines or newspapers to build words
 - Type words on a computer or tablet in a fun font
 - Write the words with a white crayon and then color over them with a marker
 - Draw a picture to go with each word and write it underneath

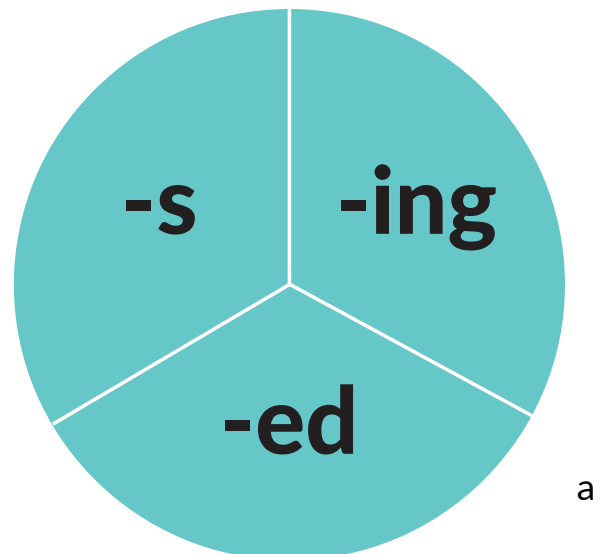
The Suffix Summit: Inflectional Endings

In this mission, students will join Captain Taco in an expedition to help the bored goats get some fun in their lives. They will see a word that is missing the correct ending. They have to read the sentence and fill in the correct ending to start the music. This game will help students develop comprehension skills and knowledge of inflectional endings by reading the target sentence and selecting the inflectional ending that makes the sentence make sense and is grammatically correct.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** Inflectional endings are suffixes added to verbs to change the tense of the verb (-s, -ed, -ing).
- Help me brainstorm a list of regular verbs.
- Choose one of the verbs.
- Create a circular spinner like the one shown on the right. Let me use a pencil to spin the spinner.
- Ask me to write or say the verb with that ending on it and then write or a say a sentence that uses that verb with its new ending.



The Littered Lagoon: Long Vowels

In this mission, students will join The Clump in an assignment to clean up the community beach. They will hear a word and see a matching picture to help them complete the word on the beach clean up machine. This will then activate the machine to clean up the beach. This game will help students develop skills in spelling words with the most common phonograms.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** Vowel digraphs are when two vowels are together in a word (e.g. boat or read). The trick we learned is, “When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking.” While this trick does not always apply, many common vowel digraphs follow this pattern including: ai, ae, ee, ea, ie, oa, oe, ue, and ui.
- Go on a word hunt with me through magazines, books, or newspapers looking for words with vowel digraphs.
- Work together with me to make a list of words that have vowel digraphs.
- Read a book aloud with me and choose a vowel digraph for me to listen for while we read.

WORD Force Adventures: Reading Comprehension with Mixed Up Sentences

In this mission, students will observe and monitor the heroes on missions around the world. They will see a picture and read the accompanying sentence that isn't quite right. They'll be tasked with replacing one word to make the sentence correct. This game will help students develop comprehension skills by fixing mixed up sentences so that they make sense given the target image.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Parent FYI:** The reading strategy focused on today is best used with picture books that have a one-to-one picture match, meaning the picture on the page corresponds with the sentence on that page.
- Before we read a book together, take me on a “picture walk”. Flip through the book one page at a time, asking me to briefly describe what I see in the pictures on that page.
- Then, after the picture walk, have me read the book aloud to you. Remind me to think about the words that I previewed and get my mouth ready to read those words.

The Dictionary Dig: Vocabulary

In this mission, students will join Octavia the Octopus in rescuing Unicorn Man from the center of the Earth. They will hear a word and its definition and match it to the correct picture to power Octavia's rescue vehicle. This game will help students develop knowledge of Tier II vocabulary words by being taught new words and then matching the new vocabulary words to appropriate pictorial representations of the words.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Ask me to tell you a new vocabulary word I learned. Ask me to:
 - Draw it
 - Define it
 - Tell you synonyms
 - Tell you antonyms
 - Act it out
 - Say it in a sentence
 - Write a story with it

Sea Stories: Short Story Building

In this mission, students will join Octavia the Octopus in an underwater journey to clean up the ocean. They will choose the right word to complete sentences and make short stories. This game helps students develop comprehension skills by building small stories.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

Encourage me to write complete sentences!

Here are some ideas of things I can write:

- Journal/diary
- Letter or card
- Story
- Recipe

Remind me to start my sentences with capital letters and end them with periods (or other punctuation).

Remind me that sentences are complete ideas, not just one word.

Try not to focus too much on my spelling.

Focus instead on the following checklist:

- Is it a complete idea that makes sense?
- Does it start with a capital letter?
- Does it end with punctuation?

Solar Sentences: Reading Comprehension Commands

In this mission, students will join all of the heroes in the WORD Force on a journey to get across the outback. They will read commands and follow those commands by getting in the correct driving lane that leads them to safety. This game helps students develop comprehension skills by reading short commands and then performing those commands in a game-like environment.



Ideas To Help Me Practice

- Let me help you read a recipe and cook or bake something.
- Build a toy or model with directions. Help me read and follow the directions.
- Write down directions for how to do a helpful chore. Let me read and follow them.