



Word Study in Kindergarten 1

Kindergarten 1 children are typically in the emergent stage of literacy development, characterized by imitation and experimentation with the forms and functions of print.

Emergent learners focus on 6 key aspects of word study:

1. Oral language, concepts and vocabulary
2. Phonological awareness
3. Alphabet knowledge
4. Letter-sound knowledge
5. Concepts about print (CAP)
6. Concept of word in text (COW)



Star Name: An Invitation to Alphabet Knowledge

Each two weeks, a new child will be chosen as our "Star". As a group, we will study the letters in the name, including what they sound like, look like, and relate to. We will also identify other words that start in a similar way. Every child will also have the opportunity to ask the "Star" a question about him or herself. The letters in the "Star's" name often will be the focal point of sound sorts, letter hunts, and handwriting.

Word Study in Speaking, Reading & Writing

Word study is also integrated into our regular literacy activities and routines. Children add to their existing store of word knowledge through class discussions, conversations in play, and read alouds. Phonological awareness activities (including rhyme and alliteration in nursery rhymes, jingles, and songs) encourage children to play with words and focus on speech sounds. We re-read texts regularly, promoting internalization of sound, and also encouraging children to point to the words in the familiar text to practice emergent reading ("pretend reading" & "memory reading"). These routines develop their concept of word in text.

Sorting & Matching

The mind uses a compare-and-contrast categorization system to develop new understandings about our world and the language to talk about it. We start with concept sorts (colour, size, type) and build upon this process of categorization, applying it to letters, sounds, and words. For example, students may match upper-case and lower-case letters and sort rhyming words.

Handwriting

At ISS we teach and encourage the use of D'Nealian style handwriting. In K1, children practice forming letters through activities such as sand tracing, play dough molding, gross motor movements, and morning sign-in. If you would like to practice using D'Nealian handwriting at home, we have some links available on our class blogs in the "Parent Education" section.