



One-Minute Reading Drills

Think you can't get a lot accomplished in just one minute? Well, think again when it comes to one of the favored activities of Jann Rochefort, OSA's Reading Interventionist. One-minute reading drills are a popular educational tool she employs to improve phonological awareness. First developed by David Kilpatrick, PhD, a professor of psychology at the State University of New York College at Cortland and a leader in reading research, the drills offer a simple, quick, and effective intervention for struggling readers. Kilpatrick determined that if students were not making gains with the automatic recognition of words, it was due to a lack of phonological awareness skills. So he created one-minute drills to overcome this deficit, even including 20 lists of them—at multiple levels that increase in difficulty—in his book *Equipped for Reading Success*.

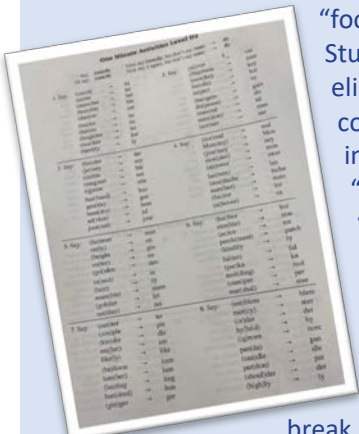


Students start with compound words. They are asked to say, for example, "birthday," then to say the word again without the first syllable: just "day." The teacher moves through a list of 10 words each round, like "daytime" without "day" (so: "time"), "airport" without "air" (so: "port"), and

"football" without "foot" (so: "ball"). Students then move on to eliminating the second syllable of compound words instead—for instance, "railroad" without "road," "seashell" without "shell," and "somehow" without "how." In this way, they learn the building blocks of words and expand their sight recognition. Readers then advance to two-syllable words, asked again to verbally

break up these words by dropping syllables, like "candy" without "can," "enter" without "en," and "butler" without "but." The one-minute drills proceed to increase in difficulty: saying the word "sit" without the letter /s/ or replacing the /t/ in "task" with an /m/ for "mask."

Why do our students enjoy these drills so much? They feel like a game, they tell us, and there's no better way to build phonological awareness, reading aptitude, and spelling skills than by making this instruction fun for kids—one minute at a time!



IEP Corner

In the last issue of "The Wave" (December 2021), Karen Hitte, our IEP Coordinator, announced that each month's edition would include a link to IEP-specific information intended to further educate and inform interested readers in all aspects of the sometimes complex process. This month's tool is a **presentation** geared toward families that provides a very broad overview of the IEP process from start to finish, covering everything from eligibility and evaluation to plan components to tiers of support. More in-depth information on any particular step is available by emailing khitte@oceanstateacademy.com. And feel free to make specific requests for the type of IEP information you'd like to receive. We'll do our very best to accommodate!

Go, Dragons, Go!

This month, we celebrate the students who achieved Dragon of the Month status due to their extraordinary efforts in these extraordinary times: DeSean Rodriguez-Martines (from Ms. Houston's class); Jandiel Martinez (Ms. Kenneally); Joseph Mullenhour (Ms. Houston); Ja'Vonnye Betters (Ms. Garcia); and Remy Mendoza (Ms. Abreu).

