

Letters vs. Words Sort and "Bang!" Game

By Heidi Butkus

This packet includes two different activities:

1: sorting the cards by letters vs. words, and

2: playing a simple, small group game called "Bang!" with letters and words.

It only includes the lower case letters (to keep the game short enough for young attention spans) and just a few sight words. This is because this packet was created to accompany the Benchmark Ready to Advance Unit 2 for TK, so it only includes the words introduced to this point, which are: the, like, to, I, is, it, this.

Objective:

The objective of both games is give children guided practice identifying understanding what is a letter, as opposed to what is a word. Some children may also be ready to identify what the specific letters or words are! In this case, teachers may wish to first ask children if the card shows a letter or a word, and then ask them to identify that letter or read the word.

Preparation:

To prepare, copy the cards onto index paper. If you are not going to play the Bang! game, then you will not need to copy the Bang! cards on the last few pages. Please note that I printed the word "this" on a separate page, because I chose to exclude it from my game. Also, there is a page of blank cards included, just in case you want to include any other additional sight words. I usually don't laminate my card games, but you may wish to. After copying the cards needed, cut them out and shuffle.

To Sort:

Hold the shuffled deck in your hand or lay it on a table (excluding the Bang! cards). Have each child draw one card

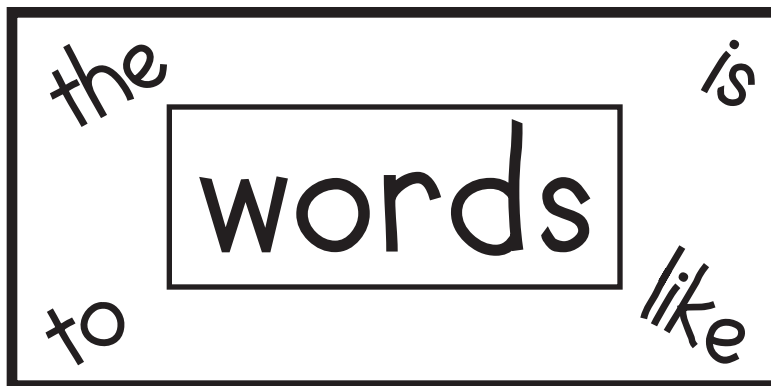
and decide if it is a letter or a word, and tell how they know. You may wish to have kids count the letters in the words as well. Optional: to make the game more challenging, ask the children to identify the letters and read the words. Then place them in baskets labeled "Letters" and "Words." You'll find the labels for these baskets on the next page.

To Play "Bang!":

To play the Bang! game, hold the shuffled cards (including the Bang! cards) in your hand. Seat the children in a small group around a table. Deal each child one card in turn, asking each child if it is a word or a letter. There is no penalty for getting the answer wrong. Optional: to make the game more challenging, ask the children to identify the letters and read the words. If a child gets a Bang! card, then everyone except the dealer must give that child all of the cards in their hand! The winner will be the one with the most cards when the dealer runs out of cards, or the one who gets the very last "Bang!" card. Hint: You may wish to keep one Bang! card for each child in the group (plus one) at the bottom of the dealer's stack, just to make sure that each child gets one. When the game starts getting dull, secretly pull one out from the bottom and give it to a child, making a mental note of who already got one. The extra Bang! card at the bottom of the stack will be for the winner- (this should be the child who randomly gets the very last card in the stack.)



(Use these to label sorting baskets or paper plates, etc.)



a

b

c

d

e

f

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