

## How Can I Adapt a Word Wall?

- **Portable File Folder Word Wall:** Use file folders. Label the outside front and tab of each folder with the featured theme (“Community Helpers”) or skill (“Words ending with -ed”). Use the inside of each folder to record themed words. Students can create these with teacher assistance. Works especially well for content-area vocabulary words. Can be personalized based on need. Great for individual A, B, C Walls where students can add words as they are presented weekly and symbols or pictures to remember them better. Very portable!
- **Floor Walk Word Wall:** Critical words are printed on stone-shaped cards cut from light gray or beige paper, then laminated for durability. Children can sort, group, and arrange words in a path so they can read the words as they walk along. Double-sided carpet tape is highly recommended.
- **Flannel or Magnetic Board Word Wall:** Useful as students classify words and create categories or sentences.
- **Art Board Word Wall:** An art board is useful when there is limited wall space or the teacher is trying to avoid overload. These Word Walls usually are more specific, for instance, a story or theme, and are folded up when not in use. The same specifications apply—words must be visible.
- **File Cabinet Word Wall:** Make word cards by laminating blank index cards or sentence strips. Attach small pieces of self-adhesive magnetic tape to the back of each card. Use white board markers (that can be rubbed off) to record words on the cards. The cards can be used over again! Students can arrange the cards easily into alphabetical order or categories, for instance, parts of speech, spelling patterns, and so on.

- **Clothes Line Word Wall:** Useful when there is limited wall space. It can be word laundry day when students see large paper clothing hanging, each with a different letter of the alphabet. This can be useful in the upper grades during a social studies or science unit. Think of “Rocks and Minerals”—what fun shapes could you come up with and what content words could be categorized under them?
- **Thematic Word Walls:** Back-to-School, Family Tree, Skeleton, Holidays, Seasons, Safety, Current Events, Alliterative Pairs, Community, Sports, and so on. Thematic Word Walls are constantly changing!