

Word Detectives

At the start of the school year, I assign my Grade Three students to become “Word Detectives”. I begin by explaining that word endings are called “suffixes”. I further explain that by becoming familiar with suffixes, students can quickly increase their ability to read more difficult words.

I have a small whiteboard on the wall in my classroom that the students use to record words that they have identified or found. These words may come from a number of sources in print: posters, books, songs and charts. Before students record their word on the whiteboard, they must copy it onto a piece of paper and I approve the spelling.

Every three weeks, we record the words from the whiteboard in a notebook titled, “Word Study”. This is a time to discuss these new vocabulary words and use them orally in sentences.

I have a list of suffixes from the Google website. We continue to search for words, with the most frequently used word endings, throughout the school year. **The first suffix ending we search for are “tion” words.**

It is great to see the enthusiasm students show in their search for words!

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