

Using Elkonin Boxes to Teach Phonemic Awareness

Objective: To explicitly help children to analyze the segmenting and blending of phonemes and to better understand the alphabetic principle in decoding and spelling.

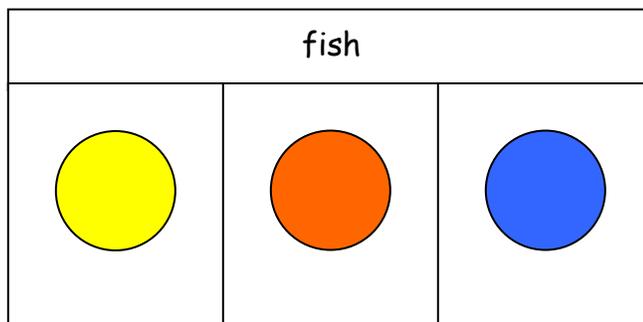
Materials:

- Copy the cell boxes below (adding more cells in needed) and laminate.
- Colored circles, unifix cubes, or colored blocks.
- Dry erase pen.
- Word List (High Frequency Words or Commonly Misspelled Words)

Procedure:

1. Pronounce a word from the Word List (stretching it out).
2. Ask the child to repeat the word.
3. Have the child count the number of phonemes in the word, not necessarily the number of letters. For example, *fish* has **three** phonemes and will use **three** boxes. /f/, /i/, /sh/
4. Direct the child to slide one colored circle (or unifix cube or colored block) in each cell of the Elkonin box diagram as he/she repeats the word.
5. Have the child write the word above the boxes using a dry erase marker.

An example might look like the following:



Or if phonemes are repeated the example would look like this:

