

Get writing

SECTION

6

Stringing along

Objective: To spell with increasing accuracy and confidence, drawing on word recognition and knowledge of word structure and spelling patterns including common inflections and double letters.

What you need: Copies of *The Snail and the Whale*, photocopiable page 29, chalk.

Cross-curricular link: Music.

What to do

- Read the story and recall discussions about rhyme and rhythm.
- Together, chant rhyming words from two successive lines, for example, *race, place, race, place*. Clap the rhythm at the same time. Vary the sound pattern by emphasising the first word of each pair and then the second (*race, place, race, place*, then *race, place, race, place*).
- Ask individuals to write words such as 'lace' and 'face' on the board to continue the string.
- Go outside and, together, stamp out the

rhythm of the children's rhyming strings, placing emphasis on different words by stamping harder with one foot.

- Draw a wiggly chalk line around the play-ground representing the snail's *silvery trail*. Hold onto one another like a train, chanting and stamping the rhyming strings as you go along the trail.
- Ask children to write words on the ground to form rhyming strings, and jump from word to word while chanting.
- Give each child a copy of the photocopiable page to complete.

Differentiation

For older/more confident learners: Challenge children to read and write strings with differing graphemes, for example, 'sky', 'high', 'pie'.

For younger/less confident learners: Involve children in writing simple CVC strings, for example, 'pot', 'hot', 'cot'.

Book review

Objective: To explain their reactions to texts, commenting on important aspects.

What you need: Copies of *The Snail and the Whale*, photocopiable page 30.

What to do

- Invite children to give their overall impressions of the story. Ask them what they enjoyed most about the book. Discuss their opinions of the illustrations. Question them as to whether the regular rhyme added to their enjoyment or not.
- Explain the purpose of a book review and read sample reviews from the backs of the children's favourite books. Suggest that the children write their own reviews of *The Snail and the Whale*.
- Display the photocopiable sheet and read it together, a section at a time. Discuss how the individual settings are linked because they are

in and around the sea. Decide whether this is a suitable place to set a story. Talk about the merits or possible shortcomings of characters, events and illustrations. If necessary, explain the star rating system.

- Give each child a copy of the photocopiable sheet to use as a plan prior to writing an independent book review.

Differentiation

For older/more confident learners: Invite children to choose a different story to review, using the same approach.

For younger/less confident learners: Focus on reviewing a favourite event in the book, for example, when the whale was stuck on the beach. Ask children to draw a picture and write about their feelings on the event.