WORD PATTERNS

Group, Individual:

*Description:* Teaching with word patterns stresses a sound made by several letters, rather than individual letters, as in traditional phonics instructions. For example, the word “bat” can be sounded out phonetically by the individual letters “b-a-t.” It can also be sounded out according to the pattern “-at” with “b” in front of it.

*Purpose:* To develop a system for decoding based on letter patterns in words. It is particularly helpful for learning vowels in units with consonants. This has two advantages: 1) patterns as sound units are usually easier to hear than individual letters blended together, and 2) one pattern can be the basic building block for many new words. When students learn better they can build new words quickly by changing initial consonants.

*Materials:* Chart paper and markers, notebooks and pencils

*Step:*
1. Select a word pattern for the lesson. Write it at the top of a piece of chart paper. Teach the sound of the pattern.
2. Practice reading the new words by changing the initial consonant or consonant blend.
3. Encourage students to think of additional words that fit the pattern. Students write sentences with words from the lesson.