



# 101 Fun and Educational Vocabulary / Word Card Activities...



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# Tips for Using '101 Fun and Educational Word Card Activities'....

\* **Never, Never, Never put away** your word/vocab cards...**immerse** your learning area in words ! **Store your classroom sets in labelled pockets or boxes** (the small bio-zet type washing powder boxes work really well) **ready for reference and use everyday!**

\* **Play with Words** at every opportunity!

\* **Grab a set of cards and** plan one of these word cards ([sight words](#) or [theme words](#)—[phonics words](#)) **activities everyday** - from short whole class activities and structured literacy group activities to impromptu **grab and go games...**

\* **1 larger set and 1 smaller set** -Whenever you plan to print off a set of word cards - print off 2 sets - or ideally,

\* Make use of **different print sizes**. The larger 4 words to a page size is ideal for **wall display**—the 2 in 1 print sizes are great for **hands-on games** and **labelled boxes/pockets**. 9 in 1 is ideal for word lists, **individual copies** for cut and paste activities and take home word cards.

[How to print in different sizes...](#)

\* **Never underestimate the power of the written WORD / VOCAB CARD ! \***

**When is a Flashcard NOT a Flashcard...?**

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## 1. Immerse your Learning Area ....

\*Absolutely immerse your learning area with words vocab cards - hang them from the ceiling like a ladder, have them on the windows, pop them on your bulletin board displays, have full class sets in themed boxes (small washing powder boxes work well) or hanging pockets ready for children to use for reference and games everyday...

\*Children need to be absolutely enveloped by all sorts of words, eg. [theme words](#), [sight words](#), [phonics words](#), [CVC words](#) and more.. EVERYWHERE !

## 2. Syllables and Sounds Mapping.....

\*Practise clapping or moving to the syllables of each word.

\*Use whiteboard markers on laminated cards to stroke out the syllables in each word.

\*The [sounds \(or graphemes\)](#) within each syllable are then mapped using a dot for 1 letter graphemes, and underscore for 2 or more letter graphemes.

\*Also can—Bring up the pdf words file on the electronic whiteboard and use digital pen to mark the syllables and sounds as a whole class.

\*Also can—Make up a chart with headings— 'Word' 'How many Syllables' 'How Many Sounds' eg. The word 'river' has 2 syllables and 4 sounds so would look like this .....

riv|er

• • • —

## 3. Twister Chart...

\*Make a 'twister' style chart with chalk on a concrete floor, using letters instead of colours.

\*Children choose a flashcard word and place their feet and hands on the letters as they spell out the words.

## 4. Mini Words....

\*Print off smaller size words in black and white using the printer settings (for example 4in1 page).

\*These words are then cut up and put into a small lunch container to practise at home.

\*Send a copy of these ['101 Word Card Activities'](#) home with parents as a reference for activities with these cards.

## 5. Who Am I ? Game...

- \*Have your selected word cards on display.
- \*Children take turns giving 'who am I' clues for a chosen word.
- \*For example, I am yellow, I have 5 letters, I end in 'y'.
- \*Other children guess the word.

## 6. Hangman....

- \*Have your selected vocab / word cards on display.
- \*Play 'hangman' using these flashcards as reference.

## 7. Make a Word / Vocabulary Dictionary...

- \*Each child has a 'scrapbook' with each letter of the alphabet written at the top of every 2nd or 3rd page.
- \*Whenever you present a new set of flashcards or words - print your chosen flashcards in black and white reducing the size to about 4in 1 in your printer settings.
- \*Children cut these words out and glue them into the appropriate initial letter of their 'dictionary scrapbook'
- \*Great for writing reference and word practice—by the end of the year they have a full scrapbook of all the words they have been 'exposed' to.

## 8. Find-a-Word in Reading Books...

- \*Using your pile of chosen word cards - children find each word in class reading books.
- \*Write down each word and how many times they found it.
- \*Could use a 'tally' for this.

## 9. Dominoes...

- \*Using your chosen word cards, deal them out so that each child has the same amount.
- \*Children take turns placing their cards down making sure the last letter of one matches the first letter of another word card as in dominoes style.

## 10. Interactive Whiteboard Wordplay...

- \*Set your IWB so that your chosen vocab cards pdf file displays.
- \*Children circle the letters, sounds, and patterns within the words.

## 11. Chinese Whispers....

\*Children are sitting in a circle.

\*First child picks up a flashcard and whispers the word to the child next to them

\*The word get 'whispered' around to the last child who says to word out loud. Flashcard gets held up to check of correct.

## 12. Dismissal Words....

\*Grab a set of word cards and as children are dismissed or move to another activity—ask each child to say the word or point to a letter / sound in the word etc as they move on...

## 13. Circle Smaller Words Within Words...

\*Use whiteboard markers to circle smaller words within the laminated word card .

\*For example - 'ball' - 'all'.

## 14. Chalk Words...

\*Children go outside and practise writing their word card words with chalk on the concrete.

## 15. Handwriting Practice...

\*Children use whiteboard markers to practise tracing over a set of laminated vocab / word cards.

## 16. Word Classification / Grouping...

\*This is a great activity for early finishers also.

\*Grab a set of cards or more —classify/group them according to all sorts of criteria

\*number of letters

\*words with double letters

\*compound words

\*words that rhyme

\*words with certain phonic sounds

\*same initial letters

\*same ending letters

## 17. Flashlight Words....

- \*Have your chosen word cards on display.
- \*Turn off the lights and use a flashlight or torch to flash on each word card.
- \*Children say the word as you flash on them.

## 18. Around the World Words...

- \*Children play this in continuous pairs.
- \*Flash the word card to the first pair, first child to say the word correctly, moves on to the next child to make a pair.
- \*Another card is flashed - first child to answer correctly moves on to the next child and so on.....

## 19. Tic Tac Toe Here I Go...

- \*Have your chosen word cards displayed.
- \*Children or Teacher uses a pointer to sing as they point to the words in random fashion...
- 'Tic Tac Toe Here I go, Where I Land I Do Not Know'
- \*Stop on a card - children say the word.
- \*Is fun to go really fast with this and children love being the 'teacher'.
- \*This has always been a simple favourite wherever I have used it.

## 20. Swat the Word...

- \*Have the chosen words displayed.
- \*Children use a flyswat to 'swat' the words as they are called out.

## 21. Stepping Stones....

- \*Place chosen word cards on the floor in random fashion.
- \*Children take turns stepping on the stones (word cards), saying the words as they step on each one.
- \*Children be careful not to fall off into the river full of crocodiles.

## 22. Playdough Words...

- \*Children make word card words up using playdough.
- \*If you make the word cards larger size, they can place the playdough over the top of the letters..



## 23. Musical Words...

\*Children sit in a circle.

\*1-5 word cards are passed around as music plays.

\*Once music stops, children with cards, stop and look at them and say the word or say something interesting about the word eg. double letters etc - continue with the music.

\*Can build it up to 20 or more cards being passed around—good fun.

## 24. Word Walk...

\*Children grab 1 or more cards depending on the age of level of the children.

\*Children walk around the room or school (under supervision) looking for their words on signs, books, around the environment...

\*Children keep a tally of how many times they see each word.

\*To make it fun children could have their own 'word wands' made from dowel or 'fairy wands' purchased from cheap shops.

## 25. Coin Toss / Beanbag Toss...

\*Place selected word cards on the floor face up.

\*Children take turns to toss the coin, or beanbag onto a word and then say that word or say something interesting about the word eg. double letters etc.

\*Make this more difficult by asking the 'tossers' to throw onto a specific word or other clues, such as - a word beginning with 'b' or a word with the sound 'oo' in it, or a word with 4 letters for example.

## 26. Crisscross Words....

\*Children write their words downwards, then fill in the missing letters.....

    s c h o o l  
      s c h o o l  
        s c h o o l  
          s c h o o l  
            s c h o o l  
              s c h o o l

## 27. Letter Stencils and Letter Stamps...

\*Children make up words from the selected word cards using letters stencils or letter stamps.

## 28. Magnetic Letters...

\*Children make word card words using magnetic letters.

\*A great way to do this for individual use is to use cheap baking trays for each child to place their magnets on.

## 29. Beat the Clock...

\*Using the word cards, how many times can each word be written in 1 minute.

\*Great to work in pairs with one child writing and one child doing the timing.

## 30. Beat the Clock Reading...

\*Hold up the vocab / word card - how many words can be read out loud in 1 minute.

\*Again, this could be done as a class or in pairs with one child saying the word while the other times.

## 31. Wordle...

\*Under supervision - children place the chosen word card words into [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net) to make a word cloud.

\*Print out the word cloud and find the words within it.

\*Children make their own 'word clouds' using the word card words, using wordle as an example.

## 32. Rainbow Words...

\*Children write their word card words in large letters.

\*Using different colours and drawing mediums, children keep drawing over the top of the words to make 'rainbow words'.

## 33. Pass a Word...

\*Pass a word card to each child.

\*When a word is called out - the child with that word can - line up, go to an activity, be dismissed, etc.



### 34. Grid Words....

- \*Make up a grid on the chalkboard, whiteboard.
- \*Make the grid squares about the size of your word cards.
- \*Across the top place shapes or numbers.
- \*Down the side, place letters.
- \*Place your chosen word cards on the grid using blu-tak.
- \*Give the children grid references to find certain words, or say a word and children need to give the grid reference.

### 35. Snap...

- \*Play 'snap' as a group or with a partner with 2 identical packs of smaller sized word cards.
- \*Can also play 'snap' when word has same beginning sound, same end sound, same number of letters in word.

### 36. Word card Bingo...

- \*Can be played as a whole class or in small groups.
- \*Place a set of chosen word cards on display so that they can easily be seen.
- \*Children fold an A4 page into 8 then unfold
- \*Children choose 8 of the displayed words to copy into their 8 sections.
- \*Words are called out as in bingo - children tick their words as the words are called out.
- \*Children yell 'bingo' when all their words are ticked.

### 37. Mixed Up Words....

- \*In pairs, children , use the chosen word cards to make up 'mixed up' words from each word card.
- \*The pairs then swap their mixed up words, and 'correct' them.
- \*For example—(het = the)

### 38. Alphabet Word Wall...

- \*Pop a piece of Velcro on the back of each word / vocab card.
- \*On a large bulletin board, place the alphabet across the top.
- \*Children have to place the chosen word cards under the correct alphabet tab.

### 39. Battleships...

- \*Make up 2 - 10x10 grid papers with number references 1-10 at the top and letter references A-J down the side for each child.
- \*Each child writes in 3-5 flashcard words anywhere on their grid.
- \*In pairs, children take turns asking whether their partner has any letters at a certain grid reference.
- \*If they do, the partner tells them what letter it is and the child asking the question writes in that letter on their 2nd grid.
- \*Continue to take turns until all words have been completed or 'hit'.

### 40. Cut and Paste Words...

- \*Children find chosen word card words in magazines and newspapers.
- \*Cut the words out and glue them onto an 'ongoing' collage.

### 41. Ransom Words...

- \*Similar to above, however, letters are cut out from magazines and newspapers and glued together to make up the word card words.

### 42. Look, Cover, Write, Check...

- \*An oldie, but a goodie.
- \*Children work their way through your chosen set of word cards.
- \***Look** at the word card, **Turn** it over (close their eyes and see the word in their mind), **Write** the word down, **Double check** by turning the flashcard over.

### 43. Hide and Seek Words...

- \*In pairs, children take turns hiding the chosen word cards around the room.
- \*Their partner needs to find the words .
- \*Have a smaller copy of the words for children to tick them off as they find them
- \*Great for clues, instructions and oral language.

### 44. Group according to Ending Letter...

- \*Children group the chosen word cards according to rhyming sounds (ideal for multiple sets of word cards)

## 45. Group according to Initial Letter...

\*Children group the chosen vocab cards according to initial letters (ideal for multiple sets of flashcards)

## 46. Group according to Number of Letters

\*Children group the chosen word cards according to number of letters in each word... (ideal for multiple sets of vocab cards)

## 47. Group according to Phonics ...

\*Children group the word cards according to phonics and letter blends such as double letters, phonic sounds etc... (ideal for multiple sets of vocab cards)

## 48. Word Fishing....

\*Place a large paper clip on each word.

\*Pop them in a big tub .

\*Make a fishing rod with dowel and a strong magnet on the end.

\*Children fish for words - saying the word as they catch them.

## 49. 20 Questions...

\*One child or the Teacher thinks of a word from the chosen word card group.

\*Other children from the group needs to ask questions to be able to 'guess' the word.

## 50. I Have, Who Has ?...

\*You will need 2 sets of cards for this, or an extra list that all children can refer to.

\*One set of chosen cards are handed out equally to the group.

\*One child starts off - 'I have 'the' , who has 'they' ?

\*The child with 'they' , then continues - "I have 'they', who has 'not'? etc.

## 51. Word Booklets....

\*Make up word booklets in any size you like using the printer settings.

\*The instructions for doing this are here...

<http://www.k-3teacherresources.com/>

## 52. Word Jigsaws

- \*After lamination, cut through the words using 'tricky' shaped cuts.
- \*Word cards could be cut according to syllables or picture / word match, word endings, phonic sounds, complex words.
- \*More than one cut per word might be appropriate also.
- \*Children put the words back together.

## 53. Action Words...

- \*Choose the word to be 'found' , or word attribute to be 'found'.
- \*Slowly show the children word by word, when the selected word appears - children perform a set action - for example, clap, jump up, shout it out, etc.

## 54. Voice Thread...

- \*Children choose a word to write and decorate on a large piece of paper.
- \*Children write a sentence using that word underneath, or dictate it to an adult.
- \*Take a picture of each decorated word and sentence and make up a flash-card slideshow using [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net) or with children's voices at [www.voicethread.com](http://www.voicethread.com).

## 55. Guess a Word...

- \*Have your chosen word cards on display.
- \*Teacher or Child says the first 3 letters of a word.
- \*Other children guess what the word is.

## 56. Memory Game.....

- \*Place 5 words on display.
- \*Ask the children to have a good look so as to remember which words are displayed.
- \*Children close their eyes and you take 2 words away.
- \*Children guess which words were taken away.
- \*Increase number of words started with and taken away to increase difficulty.

## 57. Add Endings...

- \*Using a set of chosen word cards, children add endings to the words.
- \*For example, 'write' - becomes 'writing', 'love' - becomes 'lovely', 'dog' - becomes 'dogs'.

## 58. Make a Silly Sentence....

\*Using the chosen set of word cards, children make up silly sentences using as many of the words as they can.

\*This is ideal to do in small groups as children help, and talk to each other.

## 59. Concentration....

\*Use 2 identical sets of flashcards (small size would be ideal for this)

\*Place all the cards face down on the floor.

\*Children take turns turning over 2 cards at a time—if they match—they keep that pair of cards.

## 60. Rhyming Words....

\*Children brainstorm and write down words that rhyme with the word card words.

## 61. Word Massage...

\*In pairs, children choose a word from the word cards and write that word on their partner's back with their finger.

\*Partner has to guess what word it is.

## 62. Word Chain....

\*Children write the words onto small strips of paper or cut up streamers.

\*These are then taped or stapled together to form a chain.

## 63. Look and Say....

\*Words are shown and children say the words in different ways.

\*For example, whisper the words, yell the words, slow voice, fast voice, high voice, low voice, jumpy voice.

## 64. Spellingcity....

\*Place word card words into [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com).

\*Children play games with these words.

## 65. Postman....

- \*Children put their heads on desk with their arms out.
- \*One child is chosen to be postman and delivers one word card to each child.
- \*When all 'letters' are delivered, each child reads their word.
- \*Children can then be called up using different word criteria.
- \*For Example, come to the front if your word has the sound 'ee' in it.
- \*Children with those words come to the front and hold them up while the class reads the words.

## 66. Word Play...

- \*Print off small sized black and white copies of the chosen word cards - so each child has a copy of all the words.
- \*Children circle and colour in all the different phonics blends they can find in the words - use our [phonics cards](#) to help them find these sounds and blends.

## 67. Word Board Games....

- \*Use our [printable board games](#) to play games using word cards.
- \*Place the word cards on the board, children roll the dice, then pick up a card and say the word before they can make their move.

## 68. Word Maths....

- \*Children play this in pairs.
- \*On a piece of paper, children keep a points tally.
- \*Place chosen word cards in a pile face down on the floor.
- \*Children take turns in picking one from the pile and writing down the number of letters it has in their points tally.
- \*When all the words have been picked, children add up number of points to see who has the most.

## 69. Word Art....

- \*Children use different art media to illustrate a chosen word.
- \*For example, children could paint a word, make a word from fabric scraps, make a word from crumbled paper etc.

## 70. Record Words...

- \*Children say words into a microphone.
- \*Record onto mp3 player or similar computer



## 71. Word Relay...

- \*Children line up in 2 lines.
- \*Each child is given a word card.
- \*Children have a relay race to write their word on the chalk board or whiteboard.
- \*When one child finishes their word, the next child comes up and writes theirs underneath.
- \*First group to finish and sit down wins.

## 72. Syllables...

- \*As a class, clap the syllables in the group of words.
- \*Children then use a whiteboard marker to place a 'slash' between the syllables in words.

## 73. Change a Letter...

- \*This best done as a class, or in small supervised groups.
- \*Choose a word from the flashcards - create new words by changing one letter in that word each time.
- \*For example—lost—most—mist- mint- mine- mane—cane-cone-code

## 74. Class Code...

- \*Make up a class code in another session.
- \*For example this might be the numbers 1-26 represent the letters A-Z
- \*Have the code written up clearly for all children to see.
- \*Children write their word card words in code.

## 75. Word of the Day ...

- \*Brainstorm, analyse and list all the attributes of the word of the day each day.

## 76. Picture Words...

- \*Draw a picture of something big. Fill in your picture using all the words from your chosen word cards.

## 77. Alphabetical Order

- \*Place your group of word cards in alphabetical order along the floor.

## 78. Write on grid paper.....

\*Children write the chosen flashcard words on grid paper—one letter per grid.

\*Write them one under the other—which word is the longest, shortest ?

## 79. More Concentration....

\*Play concentration pairing up other attributes.

\*Pair up using same initial sounds, end sound, same number of letters etc.

## 80. Word Train...

\*Copy all your vocab / word card words—writing them end to end with no spaces in between.

\*Separate the words by writing them in different colours.

## 81. Hardest - Easiest

\*As a group, children put the cards in order from hardest to easiest to learn.

\*Great for group cooperation.

\*Talk about why the children thought some words were easier to spell or remember than others.

## 82. Computer Words...

\*Use 'Microsoft Word' to type in word card words.

\*Put all the words on one page and all different fonts.

## 83. Find Little words within words....

\*For each word - find and write down as many little words found inside the word card word.

\*for example - 'together' - 'the', 'to', 'get', 'her'

## 84. Word Explosions...

\*Choose a word from the cards.

\*Children create new words using the letters from this word card.

## 85. Wordsearch...

\*Older children create simple wordsearch with the word card words using grid paper.

## 86. Pyramid Words...

\*Copy and write your words in a pyramid shape.

\*For example -

'begin' - becomes...

b

be

beg

begi

begin

## 87. Flashcard Barrier Game...

\*2 sets of identical word cards are needed for this.

\*Place a barrier between 2 children (for example a folder )

\*First child puts the flashcards in any order in a row from top to bottom— ladder form, without the 2nd child seeing.

\*First child then explains the order of the words to the 2nd child who places his cards in order according to the instructions.

\*Children swap roles.

## 88. Race Track Word Cards

\*Make up extra cards with 'start', 'finish', 'go back 2', 'go forward 3' and 'miss a turn' (can be used with all word cards then)

\*Place above cards and the word cards on the floor in a race track formation.

\*Children take turns throwing the dice and moving their counter along the race track.

\*When landing on a word - children say that word or follow directions when landing on a directions card.

## 89. Read My Lips...

\*Teacher or one child in the group 'mouths' or 'whispers' a flashcard word on display.

## 90. Catch a Card...

- \*Children sit in a circle or at their desks.
- \*Hand out the set of word cards evenly between all children.
- \*Throw a beanbag to a child - they stand up and hold up their card and say the word, then throw the beanbag to another child.
- \*That child stand and says their word and throws to another child..

## 91. Do It Yourself Flashcards...

- \*Children use the set of word cards as reference to make up their own.
- \*Older children could make up their own complete set.
- \*Younger children could each be assigned certain words so as to make up a complete class set when all put together.

## 92. Odd Letter Out...

- \*With a partner, children make up their own list of the word card words, but leave out 1 or 2 letters per word and put in a underscore instead.
- \*Partners then swap sheets and fill in the missing letters to make the complete words.

## 93. Yes or No...

- \*Display the word cards clearly.
- \*One child leaves the room or closes his eyes.
- \*Other children choose a card by pointing to it.
- \*Child returns or opens his eyes.
- \*He then asks questions of the others to try and 'guess' which card was choosen..
- \*Can only answer 'yes' or 'no' to his questions.

## 94. Uno Card Game...

- \*One or more sets of different word cards can be used depending on the size of the group.
- \*In a small group, children are dealt 7 word cards each, the rest are placed face down in the middle, with the top card turned over.
- \*Players take turns to place a card on top but only if the card has the same initial letter, or the same number of letters as the top card.
- \*If a player cannot place a card down, they pick up from the pile.

## 95. Scrabble

### Words...

\*Children make up words from the chosen word cards using real scrabble pieces.

\*Can also use cut out letters such as the ones from this website.

\*Another fun variation of this is for the children to make up the word card words in crossword or scrabble form.

f

red

e

t

(example of red and feet)

## 96. Word Card Statues...

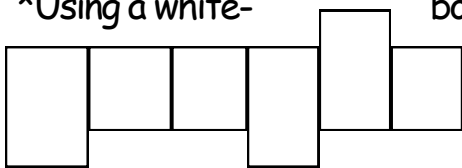
\*Spread a set of word / vocab cards on the floor - words facing up.

\*Play some music, when the music stops, children find a word card to stand on.

\*Those words with a stated attribute are out of the game, for example, - 'if you are standing on a word with double letters you are out'.

## 97. Word Frames...

\*Using a white-board marker, children draw word frames around the word card words.



\*For example....

p e o p l e

## 98. Connect a Word...

\*Using a plain black and white printed alphabet chart, children connect letters to spell words by drawing lines using a different colour pen for each word.

## 99. Spell a Word...

\*From a displayed list of vocab / word cards, teacher or child begins to spell a word, children try to guess as each letter is revealed.

## 100. Word Explosions...

\*With a partner, children choose a word card

## 101. Misspelled Words...

\*Each child has an A4 sheet with 3 columns with headings...

Correct, Incorrect, Incorrect.

\*For each word card word, children write the correct spelling in the 'correct' column and then write 2 other ways this word might be misspelled in the other 2 columns.

AND MORE.....

## 102. String Glue Words....

\*Children make up their own word cards by cutting and gluing string onto card to make up the words.

\*Younger children could use a printed black and white copy of the word cards to glue their string over the top of the letters as a template...

## 103. Mini Cards...

\*Have a box of small blank mini cards or paper on hand at all times.

\*You can purchase 'post it' notes these days about the right size (approx. 10cm x 2cm).

\*Children use these to write down words from word walls, and charts - then take the words back to their writing.

\*These are also great for writing words on when doing writing conferences.

## 104. Alphabetical Order....

\*Children place the set of flashcards in alphabetical order across the floor.

## 105. Classify into Parts of Speech

\*Children classify words into verbs, adverbs, nouns, etc...

## 106. BANG Word Game

\*Play the 'Bang' word card game with any word cards.....[Instructions here](#)