



Newsletter

Gengras Center

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February 2017

Language in Categories

When teaching new vocabulary words it is important to teach the words in the category in which they belong. For example the week of 1/30/17, all the words are winter words. However, snow and cold are also weather words. A shovel is a tool. A snow plow is a vehicle. And February is a month. Then students can be asked to name other members of the same category, which strengthens their knowledge of the words. We also teach the function, provide a photo representation and use the word in a sentence. When appropriate the parts are also taught, such as the days, dates, weeks and holidays that make up February.



Playing with Words

Some of the games that students and their families can play at home that focus on categories include: Scattegories or the app Heads Up for readers. Non-readers can go into a room (i.e. bathroom, bedroom) and play "I Spy" or look at a picture of the contents of the room or refrigerator and name items in functional categories such as things in a bathroom, things in a cabinet, drinks, vegetables, fruits, etc. A grocery store circular works well for this game. Pointing out the category signs hanging from the ceiling in stores such as Walmart and Target makes for a functional field trip. Where can toys be found in the store? Where are the socks found? The sign might only say men's and not clothing, so that helps our students think about more than one way to categorize items and they might want to ask questions.



Weekly Words

Week of 1/30/17: February, snow plow, shovel, cold, snow

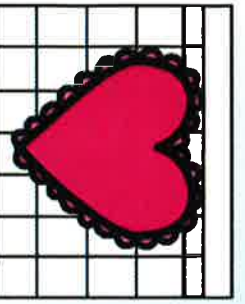
Week of 2/6/17: mop, floor mat, caution, wet, floor

Week of 2/13/17: laundry, laundromat, sort, dirty, detergent

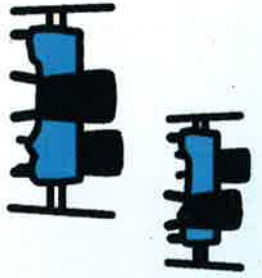
Week of 2/27/17: cleaning, window, spray, pull, paper towel



February



February



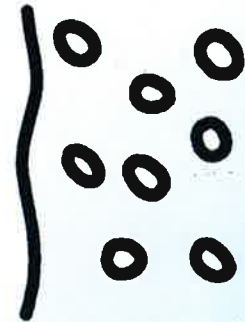
restaurant



shovel



cold



snow



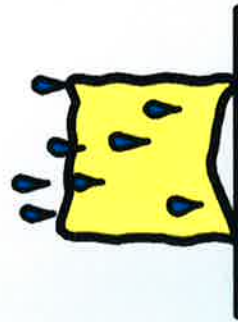
mop



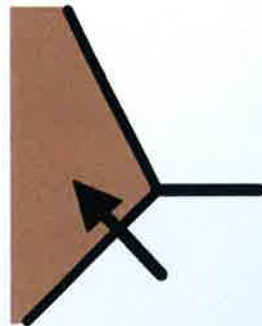
Floor mat



caution



wet



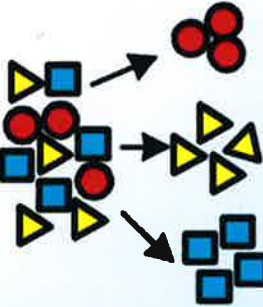
floor



laundry



laundromat



sort



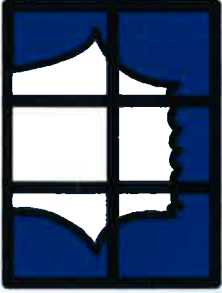
dirty



detergent



cleaning



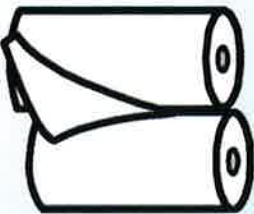
window



spray



pull



paper towels