

Kindergartners Learn to Write Two Kinds of Words

Dear Parents,

Good kindergarten writers know there are two kinds of words: Words they need to write **"by heart"** (with efficient handwriting) and words they listen to, stretch through, and write the sounds for. We use **phonics-based spelling** for these words.

As we work together, your child will use both kinds of words to grow into a proficient reader and writer! In the picture below are 4 sets of sight words that students are learning "by heart." First they will practice reading and writing the set of pink "heart words" until all 16 words are automatic. **Each child moves at an individual pace.** Soon, all children will be writing the "heart word" sentence: "I love you." and they will begin practicing purple "heart words"—all with attention to good handwriting. We will send you copies of each new set of "heart words" as soon as your child has mastered the previous one.

We are learning 62 "heart words."



Kindergartners will also be mastering essential phonics skills. As they memorize the *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* song, they will use this foundation to learn how to read and write any CVC word (consonant-vowel-consonant) such as man, pen, big, top, and bug. We will also send you phonics activities periodically for at-home practice.

Thank you for being partners in growing kindergarten readers and writers. Together we will have a great year!

SMILES,
Your Kindergarten Teacher

A Nellie Edge "Parents as Partners" Letter, 2017. Permission to use or adapt with credits noted.