Synthetic phonics- phonics instruction that begins with individual sounds and the blending of sounds to form words

Analytic phonics- word study that divides words into their elemental parts through phonemic, orthographic, and morphological analysis

Key pictures- pictures placed at the top of each category in a picture sort

Pattern sorts- a word sort in which students categorize words according to similar spelling patterns

Meaning sorts- a type of word sort in which the categories are determined by semantic categories or by spelling-meaning connections

Headers- words, pictures or other labels used to designate categories for sorting

Homographs- words that are spelled alike, but have different pronunciations and different meanings

Teacher directed sorts- an explicit word study lesson in which the teacher models and leads students through the sorting process, offers explanations and facilitates a discussion about the features and the meaning of words

Closed sorts- word sorts based on pre-determined categories

Open sorts- a type of picture or word sort in which the categories for sorting are left open

Automaticity- refers to the speed and accuracy of word recognition and spelling

Circle time- group work conducted under the teacher's direction

Seatwork- school work that is completed at the student's own desk

Center time- work completed independently in prepared areas within a classroom

Blind sorts- picture or word sort done with a partner in which students who are responsible for sorting can not see the word

Phonics reader- beginning reading books written with controlled vocabulary that contain recurring phonics elements

Sound boards- charts used by letter name-alphabetic spellers that contain pictures and letters for the basic sound-symbol correspondences