Step Up to Writing Words

Remind your child that you can create a new word by changing only one letter of a word. For example, you can change the word **map** to **tap** by replacing the **m** with **t**. Help your child make new words by changing one letter at a time. Begin by changing the first letter. As your child gains confidence, encourage him or her to change the middle or last letter. Use the provided materials and ask your child to:

- 1. Cut out the letters at the bottom of the staircase and place the letters in a row.
- 2. Select the letters and make the word on the bottom step.
- 3. Say the sound of each letter (/t/ /ĭ/ /p/) and read the word (tip).
- 4. Exchange one of the letters to make a new real word.
- 5. Say each sound in the new word and then read it (/d/ /ĭ/ /p/, dip).
- 6. Write the new word on the next step.
- 7. Repeat steps 4–6 until all steps are filled.

Help your child create new words if needed. Talk about the meanings of the words. (For nonsense words, have your child acknowledge it doesn't sound like a real word.) Use each word in a sentence that is related to something in your child's life.











