Dear Parents,

Today I have added an additional component to your child’s Jolly Phonics Notebook. Along with practicing the letter sounds we have learned, your child will be asked to write words in their notebook. Inside the back cover of the notebook is a “pocket” containing a list of words. This list of words can be used two ways. First of all, your child can practice blending (sounding out) the words to read. They are to say the individual sound that each letter makes and then blend the sounds together to read the word. For some, this is a simple task. For others, it will be a challenge. Just continue to practice at whatever level your child is at.

The second way to use the list (and the main purpose of the list) is to have your child write the words. Please do not let them just copy the words, but rather, **someone else should read the words to your child**, one at a time, and have your child “stretch” out the individual sounds in the word and write the letter for each of those sounds. Again, this will be easy for some, and more challenging for others.

If your child is tired or you do not have time to work on this every night, that is fine. Just do what you can! If your child struggles with these activities, or you do not have a lot of time, just try to do one or two words a night. Our goal is to make this a pleasant and positive experience so that your child can feel successful when reading and writing.

**Please try to complete the activities by Friday of each week.** Each Friday I will check to see if your child has written the list for that week in the notebook, at least one time. If they have, I will add a new word list to the pocket. If your child was not able to complete the word list, then I will check again on the following Friday to see if it is completed. If your child completes the word list before Friday, feel free to continue working in the notebook by having your child repeat the words or write other words that have the letter sounds we have already learned.

Another extension activity would be to have your child write simple sentences that you provide. This is a good time to practice starting the sentence with a capital letter, leaving spaces between the words, and placing a period at the end. Remember to only use words that have phonologically correct spelling (can be sounded out), or sight words that have been introduced and taught. Here are a few examples:

The sun is hot.

The cat is big.

I can run fast.

We like to see the dogs.

(Remember that writing sentences is an “extra” activity, and is not required. If your child struggles, does not enjoy this, or you do not have time for this, please do not worry or stress over it!)

Thank you for your time and attention to this! Again, the purpose of this homework is not to add more stress or tension to your day. It is intended to be a quick, positive, reinforcement of what we are learning at school.

Thank you!

Mrs. Streblow