




# Word Whackers

 A Word Whacker looks just like a flyswatter, except it's smaller—just the right size for “whacking” troublesome words! Create a focus frame by cutting a rectangular opening in the swatter end. Ask kids to look for specific words or sounds on charts and word walls around the room, then “whack” their discoveries.




 With a felt-tipped marker, write the letters of the alphabet in large print on a plain shower curtain, then hang the shower curtain in your classroom. Now the kids can become two-fisted word whackers. Armed with a Word Whacker in each hand, a student can whack the shower curtain to spell out words one letter at a time. It's a little like typing, but it's a lot more fun!

 Play “Whack-A-Word.” Form the students into two lines and give the first child in each line a Word Whacker. Start giving hints

about a word on the word wall that you want them to guess. The first hint might be, "This word starts with a 'W.'" Pause and give another hint: "This word rhymes with 'be.'" The child who "whacks" the correct word first wins. (Each child gets only one whack per turn.) The Word Whackers then go to the next child in each line and the teacher gives two hints about another word.



 For a child who needs help with focusing in her reading, cut a rectangular opening in the swatter end of the Word Whacker, then have the child use this tool as a reading guide—focusing on one word at a time as she reads.

