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## ***The Basic Concepts of Teaching Spelling by Word Families (or "Rimes")***

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Many good parents (and teachers) have always used the concept of teaching rhyming words that have the same letter endings to help struggling children learn how to read or spell. When they would introduce the word *at*, they would also teach *cat*, *bat*, *sat*, and maybe even *scat*. Unfortunately, parents (and teachers) have never had any source book for finding all the rhyming words with the same spelling patterns. In the latest academic jargon, word families are now called "rimes." The consonants, consonant blends, and digraphs that precede the word family (or rime) are now called onsets. Use whatever term you wish with your children. In this book, we generally use the terms base or word family interchangeably with the new jargon word "rime."

***The Patterns of English Spelling*** (formerly *Word Families Plus*) is now available to be used as a source book so that a parent can teach any word family. It is not just a simple collection of word lists. It consists of the complete morphemic-graphemic patterns to help you and your children to see the patterns that exist and to lock in on those patterns with their computer brains. For example, AVKO believes that if you can teach someone the word ***at***, you can also teach him:

<b>bat</b>	bats	batted	batting		
<b>cat</b>	cats				
<b>scat</b>	scats				
<b>flat</b>	flats	flatted	flattening		
<b>pat</b>	pats	patted	patting		
<b>spat</b>	spats				
<b>mat</b>	mats	matted	matting		
<b>rat</b>	rats	ratted	ratting		
<b>batter</b>	batters	battered	battering	battery	batteries
<b>flatter</b>	flatters	flattered	flattering	flattery	
<b>matter</b>	matters	mattered	matting		
<b>battle</b>	battles	battled	battling		
<b>cattle</b>					
<b>rattle</b>	rattles	rattled	rattling		

or a more sophisticated example,

from the word **act** you can build:

<b>act</b>	acts	acted	acting	active	action
<b>fact</b>	facts				
<b>tract</b>	tracts				traction
<b>attract</b>	attracts	attracted	attracting	attractive	attraction
<b>distract</b>	distracts	distracted	distracting	distractive	distracton
<b>extract</b>	extracts	extracted	extracting	extractive	extraction
<b>subtract</b>	subtracts	subtracted	subtracting		subtraction
<b>contract</b>	contracts	contracted	contracting	contractive	contraction

The AVKO Sequential Handwriting Series was developed to utilize the word family approach sequentially and to apply the very simple flesh-and-blood teaching machine techniques of having children correct their own mistakes when they make them – not hours, days, or even weeks later.

Perhaps the most important difference between the traditional approach to spelling and the AVKO (Audio-Visual-Kinesthetic-Oral) approach is that we use the tests as a learning device and not as a method of evaluation. We believe that the natural method of learning is learning from mistakes, and that is why we want our children to correct their own mistakes when they make them –so they can learn from them.