The Word Families Center pocket chart is a great way for children to recognize, read, and spell sets of rhyming words. These skills are very helpful to beginning readers and writers. For instance, with short vowel words, children can learn to spell sets of rhyming words by changing the letter or letters in front of the vowel. If a child can spell cat, then by knowing to remove the "c", she can also spell bat, fat, hat, mat, pat, rat, and sat. Learning the spelling families gives readers the independence to read or write new words without help if they know how to read or write a word that rhymes with the unknown word. Use your Word Families Center as a fun and interactive resource to supplement your reading and literacy program.

214 letter and picture cards are included with your Word Families Center pocket chart.

42 Consonant Letter Cards
Consonant letter cards color-coordinate with pockets on the chart. Consonants are printed in blue. There are two cards for each consonant letter.

56 Word Family Cards
Word family cards also color-coordinate with pockets on the chart. Word families are printed in yellow. There are two cards for each word family.

116 Picture Cards
Picture cards are double-sided, showing the picture on one side with the corresponding word printed on the opposite side. Each word ends with a word family and has the word family printed in yellow. Includes 4 blank cards.
Suggested Activities

**Picture/Word Family Match**

Place all the picture cards in the clear windows at the top of the pocket chart. In order, have the students tell you what word family is in the picture. You can have the students raise their hands, come up to the front of the room, or they can get into groups and tell you. When students correctly identify which word family the pictures represent, drop the picture card into the appropriate word family pocket in the center. After you have gone through all of the cards, you can go through the word family pockets and discuss all of the corresponding pictures.

**Building Word Families**

Place picture cards in the clear windows at the top of the chart. Place letter cards in the storage pockets at the bottom of the chart. Challenge students to take a picture card and then find the word family card they hear at the end of the picture word. For example, with the sweep card, students must find the eep card.

**ABC Order**

Place several picture cards in a clear display pocket in scrambled order. Challenge students to order the cards alphabetically. If students need to, they can look at the back of the picture cards or sing the ABC song for assistance.

**What Am I?**

Use the picture cards list in this guide to help you play this game. Place all the picture cards in the chart pockets corresponding to their word families. Choose a picture card from the card list and give students details describing the object. For example:

- **ring**: It is in the shape of a circle.
  It comes in silver or gold.
  You wear it on your finger.

Have students try to find the appropriate picture card in the word family pockets and place it in the clear windows at the top. Students should formulate a guess, identify the word family of the picture word, and then locate the appropriate word family pocket holding the picture card. Have students read the back of the picture card before placing it in the display pocket, and say and spell the word out loud. "Ring. R-I-N-G. Ring."

**Picture-Card Sentences**

Place several picture cards in the storage pocket at the bottom of the pocket chart. Have students pick a picture card at random. Challenge students to use the picture word in a sentence. Have students either build the sentence in a display window, or place the picture card in the appropriate word family pocket. You may want to use paper or a writing chart to help students record their sentences and identify the picture words they used.

Plus four blank cards.