

Sometimes Y

I love short mini-lessons, and the children love short mini-lessons too! Here's one to try that helps students learn that the letter "y" at the end of a word makes several sounds. Sometimes...we hear a long "I" and sometimes...we hear a long "E."

Begin by showing the students a large "Y" written on a white board. Write a smaller "I" on one side of the "Y" and a smaller "E" on each side. Tell the children that they will be focusing on learning how to **read** words ending in "y", not how to **write** the word.

Time to sing the song. Point to the correct letters as you sing:

Sometimes Y

(Tune: This Old Man)

Sometimes Y he says I
Sometimes Y he says E
How do you know which one to pick?
Try one out and see if it fits.

The next step is to give each student two small notes. One has an "I" written on it, the other has an "E." Then hold up one bolded word below. Read both sentences that contain the word. Ask students to hold up either the "I" paper or "E" paper that matches the sound that makes sense.

<u>Show Words</u>	<u>Read</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>Read</u>	<u>Students holds up</u>
Fly	Birds can fly high.		Birds can flee high.	I
Sky	The plane is in the skee.		The plane is in the sky.	I
Library	I like to go to the library.		I like to go to the librari.	E
Kitty	I pet my kitty.		I pet my kitti.	E
Cry	I feel like I could cree.		I feel like I could cry.	I
Puppy	I love my puppi.		I love my puppy.	E
Why	Why can't I go?		We can't I go?	I
Party	It's my birthday party.		It's my birthday parti.	E
Try	Always tree.		Always try.	I
Wiggly	The jello is wiggli.		The jello is wiggly.	E

I think you will find the children enjoy this simple exercise, mind did. They love hearing the nonsense words.

While conferencing, if you find a child who is stuck on a word ending in "y" ...remind them it is a Sometimes "Y" word. Tell them it will be an "I" or "E" sound if necessary. If they select the right sound, pat them on the back. If they pick the wrong sound, encourage them to "flip the sound" and try the other.

Of course, we've still got more words ending in y to learn, the "ay" and "oy" endings...but that's another mini-lesson.