Stretching Words
Doreen Wang, Graham O'Halloran, Daniel, Schiffrin, and Cristina Thompson

Audience: 23 kindergarten students

School and teacher: Mrs. Lynch from Vartan Gregorian Elementary School

Computers in the classroom: 2 Dell computers

Program will likely be used: students will use the program alone or in pairs during free time as a supplement to word stretching exercises

Tentative schedule of teem meetings and classroom observations: Someone from our group will visit the classroom once every week. Group will communicate by e-mail regularly as a way to exchange ideas and in person every other week. Rough draft of storyboard due March 14th and we will consult with Ms. Lynch about our ideas.

Qualities we are looking for in an authoring tool: Ability to add lots of multimedia, a program that is easy to learn and has some programming power. Considering using director.

Initial Thoughts about the program:
- We hope to create a program that develops the phonemic awareness of the students, create a solid foundation for independent reading, all within an interface that is entertaining and easy to use
- We want to utilize a click and drag interface in order to put together words from "sound chunks" and letters
- We hope to use pictures and sounds to appeal to our audience, as well as to aid and prompt them
- We've begun to gain an understanding of what our students are interested in (ie. dinosaurs, reptiles, dogs, and birds)
- We're imagining a program that is story oriented in which children can experience stories under a variety of topic headings
- We hope to have the program integrate the level of difficulty to the user's skill level as the program is played
- We are interested in saving a student's records so they get a sense of their progress
- In our conversations with Ms. Lynch we have begun to get a sense of what to avoid in creating our program including which sounds to avoid, the use of made up words, or words from other languages