

Spelling & Handwriting

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Why is spelling so important?



Spelling & learning

- ▶ Visual
- ▶ Auditory
- ▶ Kinaesthetic

Visual



Visual: children are expected to practice these spellings at home using the repetitive look, cover, write method.

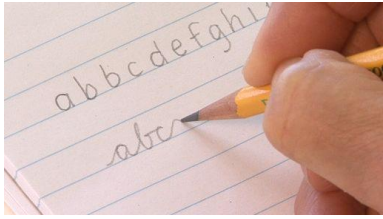


Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check!

Tick the columns as you follow the instructions from left to right. Make sure you spell the words in the 'write' column. If you spell the word incorrectly, write it again in the 'correction' column.

	look	say	cover	write	check	correction
text						
text						
text						
text						
text						





Kinaesthetic



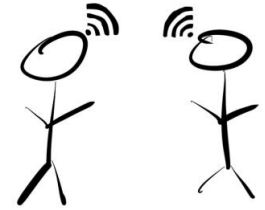
- Kinaesthetic: accurate spelling and accurate letter formation go hand-in-hand.

Handwriting sessions are used to practice spellings.
Handwriting takes place three times a week.

The first session is a taught session using teacher modelling.

The second and third sessions are more independent in which children practice the formation of the whole word.

Verbal



Children are to be tested weekly on their spellings.

The test is carried out orally by the teacher and children are required to listen to the first seven words, each which is given context within a sentence, and then write it down in their spelling book.

Spelling 1: The word is desperate .

Sara was desperate to buy the new toy in the shop window.

The word is desperate.



How do you help your child?

What do you struggle with?

Highlight the hard bit

- ▶ Frequently, there will be one part of a word that trips up your child each time. Look at the word together and highlight the part that they find particularly tricky. For example:
- ▶ Night Separate Was Receive Weird
What Two Friend Said Cheap
- ▶ Or there may be two parts that need attention, for instance;
- ▶ Accommodate Address Necessary
- ▶ Once you've done the highlighting together, get them to write out the word again without looking. This time they'll be more focused on getting that tricky bit right, and will be able to remember how it looks.

Make the spelling stick

- ▶ If one or two parts of a particular word just don't seem to 'sink in' by simply highlighting them, try to think of other ways to help them stick.
For example:
- ▶ With weird, people often get the i and e confused. Help by saying **we** are **weird**, so your child remembers that **we** is the first part of the word.
- ▶ For the double s in dessert: desserts are both sweet and sugary.
- ▶ For a word with two 'tricky' parts, like necessary, think **Cats Eat Salty Sardines** to remember the c and the double s (see 'Make it an acronym' below).

Break it down

- ▶ Try breaking down polysyllabic words to make each syllable easier to remember. Even young children may be doing this at school - they might call syllables 'beats'. Help them decipher how many 'beats' or syllables there are in a word by clapping the word together, one clap per syllable.
- ▶ So, for **two-syllable** words...
Danger Dan / ger
Windmill Wind / mill
Option Op / tion
- ▶ And for **three-syllable** words...
Relation Re / la / tion
Beautiful Beau / ti / ful
- ▶ It may help to segment the words into a chart like this:

Syllable 1	Syllable 2	Syllable 3
Re	la	tion

Copy it, copy it, recall it

- | | Copy it | Copy it | Recall
it |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| ► Use a chart like this: | What | What | What |
- After your child has copied the word twice, fold the paper over so they can't see what they've written and ask them to have a go at writing the word unaided. They should be able to recall the spelling without looking.
 - Another classic technique is known as **Look, cover, Write and Check**.
So, they **look** at the word...
Cover the word...
Write the word...
And finally **check** it.


Make it an acrostic

- ▶ Sometimes, visualising a difficult word in a different way can suddenly make it stick. Create a phrase from each letter of a word and turn it into an acrostic, which can be easier to remember than the word itself. Try these, or have your child make up their own!
- ▶ **Because:**
Big
Elephants
Can
Always
Understand
Small
Elephants
- ▶ **Ocean: Only Cats' Eyes Are Narrow**
Rhythm: Rhythm Helps Your Two Hips Move
Necessary: Never Eat Chips Eat Salad Sandwiches And Rasp
berry Yoghurt

In the palm of your hands

- ▶ If your child is a kinaesthetic learner (in other words they learn best through doing), ask them to write each letter of the word into the palm of their hand or onto their leg with their finger. With enough repetitions, they'll remember how the word felt to write (this is known as muscle memory).

Spelling Strategies

<p><u>Look, Cover, Write</u></p> <p>This is a repetitive strategy of looking at the word first to really see the word, look at the shape, visualise it. To then say the word. Next to cover the word and finally write it. Children must check and correct mistakes.</p>	<p><u>Words within Words</u></p> <p>Words can be easier to spell if smaller words are found inside larger words. Example: <i>for-ever, inte-rest-ting.</i></p>
<p><u>Sounding Out The Word</u></p> <p>Sound the word out little by little. If it sounds wrong, try changing the vowel sound from long to short or vice versa.</p> <p>Example: definite – long – de/fine/it (fine as in fine day) short – de/fin/it (fin as in shark's fin)</p>	<p><u>Mnemonics</u></p> <p>Make a phrase or sentence up about a word that you have difficulty spelling. Example: because = big elephants can always understand small elephants</p>
<p><u>Picture Words</u></p> <p>Create pictures from the syllables.</p> <p>Example: underfoot</p> 	<p><u>Highlight Helper</u></p> <p>Colour in tricky parts of the words. Example: Wednes<u>day</u>, col<u>our</u></p>
<p><u>Say It As You Spell It</u></p> <p>This technique supports picture words.</p> <p>Example: Wed/nes/day, fav/our, dis/tinc/tion</p>	<p><u>Chanting's The Charm</u></p> <p>Chant or sing the word. Your voice could become louder, higher pitched, deeper, sad, happy or silly. You could make the tone of your voice similar to the meaning of the word e.g. growl the word furious.</p> <p>Example: Mrs I, Mrs SSI, Mrs PPI.</p>
<p><u>Rap A Rhyme</u></p> <p>Choose words which rhyme with the one you want in order to help spell it correctly.</p> <p>Example: flower, power, tower.</p>	<p><u>Post-It Plenty</u></p> <p>Write out any new vocabulary down on post-it notes and stick them on the furniture or word wall to see every day.</p>
<p><u>Dictionary Delight</u></p> <p>Sound out the word and break it into syllables. Think of different letter combinations which might make that syllable sound.</p>	<p><u>Spelling Games</u></p> <p>Such as Hangman, I spy (for young children), spelling challenges, anagrams, grouping and sorting families of words,</p>

Spelling Games



Handwriting

Cursive Letter Formation

a b c d e f g h i

j k l m n o p q r

s t u v w x y z

cursive