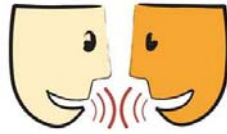


Helping your child with their spelling



Tips for Parents

- 1) Relax and make it fun!
- 2) Make sure they can read the word before they try to learn it.
- 3) Each night choose a specific time to begin learning.
- 4) Limit the time to 5 minutes, 5 times a week.
- 5) Do not try to learn more than 3 spellings each night.
- 6) Each night look back over the words already learned that week and re-learn any which are insecure.

Spelling Strategies

Break the word into sounds d-i-a-r-y

Break it in to syllables re-mem-ber

Say it as it sounds Wed-nes-day

Words within words **Parliament**- I am

Use a mnemonic because (big elephants can't always use small exits)

Learn by sight Look- Cover- Write- Check

Spelling – Look, Cover, Write and Check

The Look, Cover, Write and Check spelling method is an easy activity for learning new spelling words. First of all you need to write the list of words to learn onto a piece of paper – then you simply **look, cover, write and check**.

Look: During the '**Look**' stage get your child to look at the word. They should really study the word - taking the time to say it out loud, looking at the whole word, saying the letters aloud and looking for identifiable patterns or shorter words inside the bigger word. During this step they are looking for anything that will help commit the word to permanent memory. Before moving on to the next step, encourage your child to close their eyes, picture the word and to try spelling the word from memory and then opening their eyes to check accuracy. Ask them to look at the word one last time before attempting to spell it on their own.

Cover: Now they need to '**Cover**' the word; they can use their hand, a bookmark, or another piece of paper so that the spelling is hidden from sight.

Write: In the '**Write**' step they need to write the word down on the paper trying to recall the patterns that they saw in the look stage.

Check: The final step is to '**Check**' the accuracy of what they have written. This is done by comparing it letter by letter to the original. If they use both hands they can simultaneously point to each of the letters in the word to make sure they notice any mistakes. If there are mistakes, the process should be repeated from the beginning until the word is spelled correctly.

Helping Your Child with Reading

Some questions to ask about a book

Here are some questions that may help you to support your child's reading and enjoyment of the stories that they choose. It is not expected that you ask every question, every time they read a book! However, by **choosing 2 or 3 of the questions to ask your child before, during and after the reading of their book**, it will support their comprehension of what they read and ultimately, their enjoyment of the books that they choose.

They can also be adapted to any text that your child is reading, for example comics, newspapers, leaflets and information on signs.



Asking Questions about a book...

Choosing a book:

- Why did you choose this book?
- Did you like the picture on the front?
- Have you read other books by this author?
- What could this book be about?

Before reading the book:

- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the

story?

- What does the blurb tell us? Blurb is the writing on the back of the book.
- Talk about the different parts of the book (e.g. Front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator, blurb)
- If it is an information book ask them where you will find out about something specific (i.e. can the child use the Contents page or Index to locate information).



During the reading of the book:

- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean/ nice...?
- Ask children about events in the story: How would you feel if you had been that character? Has anything like that happened to you? Would you like that to happen to you?
- If reading an information book: What facts have you read? Have you learnt anything new? What does this page tell you about? Is there anything that interests you on this page? Where would you go to find information about....?



At the end of the book:

- What was their favourite part? Why?
- What were the most interesting/ exciting parts of the book? Can you find them?
- What sort of character is....?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?
- Are there any words or phrases that you enjoyed?
- Are there any parts of the book that are repeated? Why do you think that the author did that?
- Who are the main characters in the story? What character would you like to be?
- Why are some words written in capital letters? Italics? Bold print? Different colour?
- Do you think this book has helped you to understand.... Better?
- Would you like to read another story by this author or illustrator?
- Have you read any other books like this one? Is it happy/ sad/ scary/ exciting? Why do you think this?
- Does this book remind you of any other stories, or TV programmes/ DVDs?
- Does this story remind you of anything that has happened to you?
- Tell me about some other books that you have read recently.
- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their

opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons).

Some key words to use when discussing books with your child:

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Story | Book | Character | | |
| Setting | Plot | Author | Illustrator | Title |
| | Contents | Index | Glossary | |
| Headings | Sub-headings | | Blurb | |
| | Beginning | Middle | End | Fiction |

Non-fiction

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------|
| Information | Page | Bold | Italic |
| Under-lined | Pictures | illustrations | |
| Predict | Front cover | Back cover | |
| | Publisher | | |