

Spelling

With the implementation of CCGPS and best practices in education, teachers are no longer assigning a list of words on Monday and assessing the spelling of these words on a Friday test. However, spelling is still being taught. Students are taught to spell through phonics instruction (letters/sounds), word analysis instruction (prefixes, suffixes, etc.), and the learning of high frequency words. These skills are practiced through meaningful writing and reading. Students who read and write often generally are better spellers. To help you help your child with spelling, this page is devoted to answering questions you may have and providing you with tips and resources.

What is invented spelling and will it hurt my child?

<http://www.greatschools.org/students/academic-skills/384-invented-spelling.gs>

What are some realistic ways I can help my child at home?

Activities to do at home with younger children:

- Say simple words that children can spell by matching letter to sound (sit, bag) and help your child say the word, stretching each sound.
- Use words from activity above or have your child make other simple 3 letter words such as cat or mop with different materials such as magnetic letters, sidewalk chalk, letters cut from magazines, on Magnadoodles, with a variety of markers, etc.
- Ask your child to draw a picture and then write a simple sentence about it. Help them spell the words matching letters to sound.
- Make writing fun by letting your child use stickers or pictures from magazines in their sentences. Help them write the other words using letters and sounds.
- Make an individual “word wall” or dictionary for your child with high frequency words (was, the, is, etc.). These words should be spelled correctly as students learn them and use them in their writing.
- Have your child practice high frequency words with different materials such as magnetic letters, sidewalk chalk, letters cut from magazines, on Magnadoodles, with a variety of markers, etc.

Activities to do at home with older children:

- Have your child write letters and thank-you notes to friends and relatives, shopping lists, and to do lists. Writing is the meaningful practice of spelling. Help your child practice it daily.
- Play board and card games such as Scrabble, SNAP, or Boggle.
- READ! The more exposure children have to the written word, the better spellers they will be.

Fun and Engaging Websites/Games for Spelling Learning and Practice

Construct a Word (level K-2) Players chooses word beginnings and endings. This on-line game also has suggestions for other related activities.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/games-tools/construct-word-a-30182.html>

Puzzle Me Words (level K-1) Players drag and drop letters to spell words. This on-line game also has suggestions for other related activities.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/games-tools/puzzle-words-a-30820.html>

Crossword Puzzle (levels K-12) Players choose level and can create puzzle or play by choosing one in list. This on-line game strengthens spelling, reading, and language skills.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/games-tools/crossword-puzzles-a-30183.html>

Starfall (levels K-1) Players can choose link to learn letters/sounds, practice making words with simple word patterns, and select books to hear read aloud.

<http://www.starfall.com/>

Great Apps to Practice Spelling for Early Elementary

http://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading101/spelling/literacyapps_spelling/

On this link, you can download an explanation of the apps.

Free spelling apps (K-12) for a variety of levels. Some allow you to choose level while others are appropriate for multiple levels as played.

Hooked on Words, Chicktionary, Spelling City, Rocket Speller, and SB Speller. Learning Apps are added often so be on the lookout for more!

Links for further reading and information:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/158/>

(Practical ideas for parents with students in early grades)

<http://www.greatschools.org/students/homework-help/341-tips-to-support-writing-at-home.gs>

<http://www.greatschools.org/students/academic-skills/88-six-ways-to-encourage-young-writers.gs>

<http://www.greatschools.org/students/homework-help/slideshows/3206-writing-tips-for-every-age.gs?page=3>

(The three links above are appropriate for multiple grades depending on tip used. Writing is the practice of spelling in a meaningful context. These links give parents tips to support writing at home.)