

Spelling is valued in our society. Teachers aim to help children understand that spelling correctly helps to communicate meaning. At school, spelling is taught as children learn to read and write. Children develop confidence when they 'have a go' at spelling words in their writing. Learning to spell is a complex process which takes place over the stages of schooling.



Stage 1 - In Kindergarten to Year 2 children learn gradually to:

- recognise that language is broken into words
- recognise that words consist of sounds
- recognise the first letter of their name
- recognise the sounds for the letters of the alphabet
- write their name
- trace letters and words
- copy letters and words
- write the sounds that they hear in words
- use some common letter patterns, eg c-a-t, s-u-n, b-i-g
- use their visual memory of words, eg the LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK method
- clap syllables in words
- spell some common words accurately in their own writing, eg colour words, days of the week, months of the year and topic/theme words
- try to spell words that are new to them
- develop word banks of word families such as bee, see, tree, three, green, heel
- identify and attempt to correct spelling errors, eg k-a-t/c-a-t
- use word banks, theme words and picture dictionaries.



How you can support your child in learning to spell

- say speech rhymes and tongue twisters together
- play 'detective' games with words. Ask your child to be a detective and find:
 - words that rhyme, eg can, fan, man, tan
 - words that begin with the same sound, eg sun, sausage, sea
 - words that end with the same sound, eg hat, street
 - little words in big words, eg 'am' in 'jam'
 - words that sound the same but are spelt differently, eg ate - eight, to - two - too, their - there
- play word games that focus on the sounds of words, eg *Junior Scrabble*, *Boggle*, *Word Snap*, *Wonderwords*, *Junior Crosswords*, *I Spy*, *Hangman*
- encourage your child to write words that start with a particular sound
- encourage your child to write words with three letters, five letters and so on
- try to make spelling activities enjoyable
- encourage your child to 'have a go' at spelling words
- encourage your child to 'sound out' words, eg h-i-t, s-a-n-d
- ask your child to write words that are not easily 'sounded out', eg home, watch, after
- encourage your child to develop memory tricks such as 'a piece of pie', 'hear with your ear'
- encourage your child to use the LOOK SAY COVER WRITE CHECK method to spell a variety of words, eg ask your child to:
 - LOOK closely at the word
 - SAY the word and then
 - COVER it
 - WRITE the word and then
 - CHECK to see if it is correct!
- 'hear' your child's personal spelling lists
- show your child how to use dictionaries, encyclopedias and thesauruses