

Top Tips for Spelling at Home

One of the key priorities at Ackworth Howard this year is spelling. We want to ensure spelling rules and patterns can be accessed from children's long-term memory. We felt that it was important to find a way that allowed the children to have the chance to practise their words over a period of time, preferably little and often, to ensure they went into their long-term memory e.g. very similar to the approach we take to learning our times tables. Summarised below are a range of strategies that can be used at home to help your child become a confident speller. Please practice a range of spellings on a frequent basis.

<p>DICTIONARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - look through the dictionary and find other words with the same spelling rule - this will help to widen your vocabulary which can then be used to enhance your writing. Write these in your spelling journal. 	<p>RAINBOW WRITE</p> <p>Use different coloured pencils and pens when writing your spellings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - write the word 4 times, each time using a different colour -use a different colour for the vowels and consonants -use different colours for each part of the word when broken down into syllables etc -use a different colour to show the spelling rule 	<p>LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use all the senses to explore the words - use sky writing as well as writing the word on paper -use different colours (see rainbow write) 	<p>CHUNKING THE WORD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - split the words into syllables - clap each part of the word - say as it looks - highlight words (especially the section you find the most difficult) - look for base words e.g. use knowledge of how to spell jump to help you spell jumping, jumped. jumps, jumper 	<p>MNEMONICS AND MEMORY GAMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rhyme - make a sentence e.g. because (Big, Elephants, Can, Always, Understand, Small, Elephants) -link words with the same pattern -find hidden words within a word e.g. sincerely = since + rely - words to be on the table, take one away, child is to look and say which word is not there 	<p>Internet games</p> <p>Search online for word games to practise words. E.g. www.funbrain.com/spell/ and spellodrome</p>
<p>SORTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take a selection of words from each list and sort into columns -play word bingo -write 4 or 5 words on cards, chop them up and piece them back together -write words on cards and piece together to form a compound word e.g. post+box = postbox 	<p>CHANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spell words whilst out and about e.g. in the car, walking to school -Dribble and Shoot (dribble the letters by saying each in turn and then shoot the word) -Cheerleading (give me a h, give me a e, shout out the word 'he') 	<p>WRITING WORDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - write your spelling words forwards and then backwards -write words from the shortest to the longest - write the words in alphabetical order -how many times can you write the word in 30 seconds? -create a word search -write a word mind map - type words on a computer -write words in lower case and then with capital letters 	<p>WORD SHAPES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -write spellings using fancy letters e.g. bubble writing -pyramid writing h ho hom home - create a cloud by writing a selection of words inside with the same spelling rule - words you find difficult to be made larger or written more often -write the word in joined up writing (when exploring a phoneme, make sure the letters which make the sound are joined and the other letters are printed) 	<p>ANALOGY</p> <p>Use words you already know to help you spell e.g. if you know how to spell 'could' this will help with 'should' and 'would'</p>	<p>Hangman</p> <p>Play hangman with a partner, using the words you are learning.</p>

How can I make sure they write spellings correctly in their writing?

As well as engaging in all the fun activities suggested, it is still important to put the words into sentences for the child. This puts it into context and also gets them to apply the spelling within writing rather than a 'list of words.'