

15 useful tips to help with spelling

Spelling can be very difficult but there are many ways that can help children to improve.

1. Encourage your child to check through their work carefully especially after finishing a sentence.
2. If you check their work, circle the incorrectly spelling and let them self-correct.
3. Copy out the word and leave gaps for them to fill in the letters e.g. ahe_d.
4. If your child is unsure ask your child to write it out and question, 'does it look right', seek other possibilities and then choose the best one.
5. Encourage your child to split words into syllables or phonemes e.g. to/mor/row. A phoneme is a sound segment of words or syllables.
6. Looking for words within words this is the compound word strategy and is very useful.
7. Learn as many spelling rules as possible e.g. double the last letter after a short vowel sound before adding _ed.
8. Work with your child to recognise phonic families e.g. _ight, _one.
9. Look out for changes in spelling when words turn into plurals e.g. baby- babies.
10. Have some fun with your child's spelling try and Play Scrabble, hangman, do word searches, anagrams and crosswords as much as possible.
11. Encourage the use of a good spelling dictionary
12. Be careful and aware of silent letters such as Knee, Write.
13. Encourage your child to keep a personal dictionary of all the difficult words they come across.
14. At every opportunity use the Look, Cover, write Check Say Method, it really does work.
15. Keep your child reading everything they can; magazines of interest, books, cereal packets for competitions, children's newspapers and absolutely anything 'child worthy!'