

Chadsmead Primary Academy
Information for Parents and Carers
“Supporting Learning”
Spelling



Ways we practise spelling with children at school

At school, pupils are introduced to their weekly spellings through visual activities and discussion. This involves looking at word meanings, the construction of words through sounds and syllables and through handwriting activities that link to spelling practise. Children complete word searches, Look, cover, say, write check exercises and have the opportunity to practise using other methods.

Ways to practise spelling with children at home

It may become apparent that some strategies are more useful than others, depending on a child's preferred learning style. Learning spellings can, for some children, be a frustrating process as they may need to practise words over and over in order to remember them. Finding a method that works for them is vital to develop their memory recall.

Look, Cover Say, Write, Check

This is a method that involves looking at a word, covering it up, saying it in your head, writing it down and checking to see if your short term memory has helped you to record it accurately. The more times your brain repeats this process, the more likely it is that your memory can hold the information and hopefully hold it for the long term.

*See Appendix A for an example grid

Mnemonics

These are a fun way to help children remember spellings they find especially difficult to remember. It's not a strategy a child can use for every word but when they find one particularly challenging, it's a great strategy to use. Each letter in the word has another word that belongs to it, starting with the same letter that build into a sentence.

*See Appendix B – Crystal4SEND support resource

Spelling mountain

This method builds up the word sound by sound, using different colours to help those with a stronger visual memory to recall the letters in order.

*See Appendix C for an example

Using ICT

Sometimes typing words on a keyboard or iPad helps children to visualise the letter patterns as they travel across the keyboard. APPs on mobile phones can also help some children recall their spellings and aid their visual recall.

Word searches

Word searches help children to locate spelling patterns through investigation and scanning skills. For some children this allows them to look for one letter at a time instead of searing for sounds or groups of letters. <https://thewordsearch.com/maker/>

Spelling Patterns

Sometimes words can be grouped by a specific spelling pattern. Children can sometimes learn these words more easily when they are taught and practised together.

*See Appendix D for an example

Practical activities

Some children like to draw their words in different colours or in chalk on the back yard. Others like to make their words out of plasticine or play dough. Some children benefit from placing magnetic letters on a fridge or magnetic board or even baking biscuits shaped from letters. Alphabet spaghetti can also be a great challenge for children whilst eating as they can build their words at the same time.

*See Appendix E for an example

Alphabetical learning

Each year group has a set of words, children are expected to be able to spell – these are listed in alphabetical order, which again some children find useful as they can tick them off when they can spell them.

*See Appendix F for an example

Other methods.

- Rainbow writing
- Silly sentences
- Pyramid writing
- Backwards words
- Write it down three times
- Make an acrostic poem
- Alphabetical order
- Squiggly spelling
- Vowel circle
- Scramble words
- 30 second write
- Consonant circle
- Air writing
- Upper and lower case
- Colourful words
- Across and down strategy
- 3 D words
- Back writing
- Dots game
- Choo choo words
- Spelling baseball
- Dusty words
- Flash writing
- Hopscotch words
- Pasta words
- Surround words
- Words without consonants
- Spelling Bee
- Words without vowels
- Spelling flashcards
- Make some music

*See Appendix G for an example

☺ Happy learning ☺

***COPIES OF ALL APPENDICES CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE UNDER THE CURRICULUM TAB/ENGLISH: WRITING**

