

Learning how to spell

Year 3

Accurate spelling is important because:

- Good spelling aids communication. If we all follow the same spelling rules, we will understand texts without confusion
- Researchers have found that being able to spell improves reading ability. Learners who feel confident with letters and word patterns are able to read and comprehend more complex texts.
- It may seem a long way off, but there is evidence that ability to spell has a direct impact on employment opportunities.

How do we know when a spelling has been learned?

- A spelling has been learned when children use the word accurately every time they write it in their sentences in any context.

Short Term Memory

- In order to learn a spelling, children must move it from their short term memory into their long term memory. The short term memory is just that- a short term storage place for new learning which is quickly forgotten if the spelling is not revisited.
- This is why cramming all their spellings on Monday morning may give children 10 out of 10 in their test that day, but will not be remembered for use in their own writing after that point.

Long Term Memory

- In order to move the new spelling pattern into long term memory, children must practise each word many times until it is embedded. Over the course of a week, practising a few of their words every day will result in a spelling which is remembered for life.

Ideas to support learning spellings

Here are some ways to make spelling practice varied and fun!

1. Write each word forwards, then write it backwards
2. Write each word downwards, then write it upwards.
3. Write each letter of each word in a different colour.
4. Rainbow Writing:



More ideas:

- Choose the words you find trickiest and write mnemonic like this: Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants= because
- Ask a grown up to write your words with the letters muddled like this:
elamd
You have to work out which of your spellings is which.
medal
- Use a newspaper, an old letter or a magazine and cut out the letters to make your spellings like this:



- Write each word in bubble writing.
- Write each word using a different colour for each vowel.
- Write each word in a pyramid – one letter on first line, 2 on second line:

m
m a
m a k
m a k e

- Make a wordsearch containing your spellings, then solve it online:
<https://thewordsearch.com/maker/>