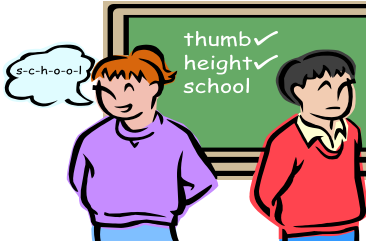


Spelling at CEJS...

One of our main aims in school is to help children become confident writers. Learning to spell is an important part of this. We hope that this letter will provide some ideas about how you can help your child with spelling.

Children learn about spelling through looking at words all around them, for example, on computers and television, in sharing books and comics, on cards and shopping lists plus through their own reading and writing.



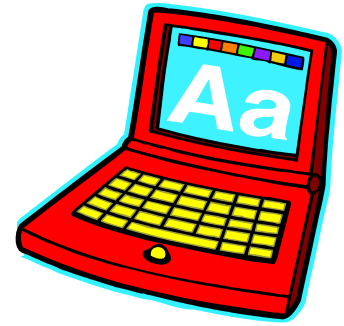
Children are able to spell correctly by:

- visualising words in their mind's eye
- having a good knowledge of word structure
- using a large store of known words

Children don't learn to spell by copying. They learn by becoming aware of how words sound and look.

In school, your child will be learning how to spell by looking at:

- vowel and consonant sounds / formations
- syllables
- using different word endings in writing, e.g. ing/s/ed
- spelling common irregular words e.g. was, said, come, what
- creating word banks of topic words, words with similar patterns, compound words e.g. some/one



Games to try at home...

- Encourage your child to join in when you write lists, letters or birthday cards.
- Read books together, tell and share stories.
- Play games like hangman, junior Scrabble, crosswords, word searches.
- Find words within words, e.g. s/it, b/all, s/end, be/hind, win/dow, sh/out.
- When reading, talk about ways of remembering how to break up words into manageable parts, e.g. wed/nes/day, hol/i/day.
- Learn spellings given weekly as homework by class teachers.
- Help your child to use a dictionary.
- Encourage your child to read through their own writing and check for errors.

I'm stuck...

If your child asks how to spell a word, ask them how it begins, tell them to listen to the other sounds they can hear in the word and then ask them to have a go at writing the word down.

Ask your child if a word **looks right** when they've tried to spell it.

Practise makes perfect...

When learning weekly spellings, this is a good method to use:

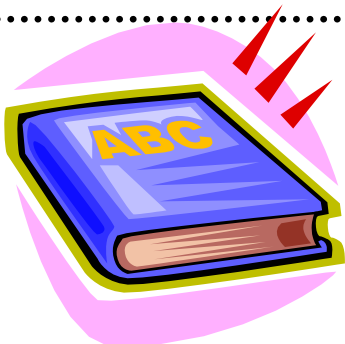
LOOK at the word carefully

SAY it aloud

COVER the word up and encourage your child to see it in his/her mind

WRITE the word from memory

CHECK the spelling to see if they have got it right



In order to learn, children must be able to experiment without fear of making mistakes! Offer lots of praise to your child...