

Helping your child with spelling - A Parent's Guide

With a new school year already well under way, your child is most likely bringing home spelling to learn each week. Parents frequently ask – how can we help our child to learn to spell? Well here are a few tips and strategies to help:



-  Don't stress – parents are not meant to replace the teacher. You can help your child in many unexpected ways as well as the traditional homework activities.
-  Keep a whiteboard on the fridge or pantry and encourage your family to write notes or shopping lists – always correct spelling, insist on words spelt correctly.
-  Engage children in chatting with you or a relative online and always help them to spell correctly – you will need to monitor them.
-  Write cards and notes to friends or family – kids love to do this.
-  Listen first to words and sounds before trying to write them – kids often say the word or sound incorrectly.
-  Break the word into smaller parts to spell, or small words within a bigger word.
-  When learning to spell words, write them in colour with different colours used for parts of the word e.g. toothpaste = **to** **o** **o** **h** **p** **a** **s** **t** **e**; **s** **u** **n** **n** **y**
-  Practise finding mistakes – looking for words spelt incorrectly – check out google images spelling errors.
-  When a word doesn't 'look right' – find the part that is wrong – not the whole word.
-  Use Scrabble letters to help your child experiment with words – magnetic for the fridge.
-  Make a concentration game out of the words – add some errors to help them to look carefully
-  Dictation is a great spelling skill – dictate words or sentences to your child and give them a star chart or reward for the words they get correct