

# Helping your child with spelling

## Why is spelling important?

Even with spell checks and texting, it's still important for children to learn how to spell. That's why schools ask parents/carers to help children learn spellings. English spelling is not easy but everyone can improve their spelling if they practise.

Learning spellings can also help children with reading.

## Catch Up® at home

Pupils doing Catch Up® will take part in one-to-one reading or maths sessions in school.

The aim is that every pupil doing Catch Up® will:

- make good progress
- grow in confidence
- become more motivated to do well in school
- enjoy success

### How can you help?

If your child is doing Catch Up® Literacy at school, you can help them by reading with them at home.

## How can you help your child learn their spellings?

It's better for children to practise spellings in two shorter sessions than one long one.

- Read the list of spellings with your child. Check they understand each word.
- Ask them if there are any words on the list they think they can already spell. Check if they can spell them correctly.
- **Look** at any words that they are not sure they know how to spell. Ask your child to **say** the first word then **study** it by remembering the order in which the letters occur.
- Tell them to close their eyes and to say aloud the letters in the right order.
- Ask them to open their eyes and check if they were right.
- **Cover** the word and challenge them to **say** the word, letter by letter, and then **write** it from memory.
- Tell them to **check** if they are right.
- If they are right, ask them how they are going to remember how to spell that word in the future.
- If they have made a mistake, tell them to underline the letters that are wrong. Then study the word again and, from memory, have another go.
- Once they have spelled the word correctly, cover it up and ask them to spell it again (and again!).

This way of learning spellings is called:

**Look – Say – Study – Cover – Say – Write – Check**

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1. Ask your child to say the word, then study it by remembering the order of the letters



5. Tell them to check if they are right



2. Tell them to close their eyes and say aloud the letters in the right order



6. If they are right, ask how they will remember it in the future



3. Ask them to open their eyes and check if they were right



7. If they are wrong, tell them to have another go



4. Cover the word and ask them to say the word, letter by letter, and write it from memory



## REMEMBER!

- No child makes deliberate spelling mistakes.
- Look at the problem part of a word and help with that.
- Praise them for any words they spell correctly.