

- Be positive in your help. Do not tell them you were a poor speller.
- Here's a way of helping children with incorrect spellings:
 1. Pick out the important spelling errors in your child's work. Choose every day words.
 2. Ask your child to have another go at spelling the word correctly.
 3. If your child makes an incorrect attempt, give a clue, e.g. 'There's a letter missing' or 'There's a letter too many here.'
 Give them the dictionary to help to find the correct spelling.

- Point out any simple spelling rules, word families or interesting features of the word. This will help your child apply your advice to other words.

E.g. **Spelling error: strenth**

You: There's a letter missing.

Child: I have no idea

You: How do you spell strong?

Child: S..T..R..O..N..G is there a G missing?

You: yes

Child: Here, after the N. writes it in)

You: How would you spell length?

Child: L..E..N..GTH?

You: Yes: good.

Suggest strategies for learning spellings, such as:

Saying the word as it sounds

e.g. Wed-nes-day

Breaking the word into its parts

e.g. dis+ satisfied

Mnemonics

e.g. **Big** elephants can understand small elephants **because** they speak the same language.

Identifying words within words. e.g There's **a rat** in **separate**

A **secretary** can keep a **secret**

Never **believe** a **lie**.

Sounding out variations of the word to confirm the vowel

e.g. infinite- infinity

Pointing out spelling rules

Drop the E when you add ING i before e except after c

Use the Look- Say- Cover-Write-Check method for learning spellings. (See overleaf)

Encourage your child to use a dictionary. Be seen to use a dictionary yourself.

We recommend the following dictionaries:

The Oxford School Dictionary – A new edition which is suitable for KS2 pupils with spelling tips and a vocabulary-building supplement.

The Oxford English Dictionary - This will support KS3 and KS4 pupils with their independent reference skills, to improve their spelling, punctuation, and grammar, and to build vocabulary.

Play board games which will encourage attention and interest in words

Boggle Scrabble Bananagrams Lexicon

Play word games such as

Crosswords

Word searches

Word ladders- e.g. change *tent* to *rule* in 4 moves, changing one letter at a time, always using real words.

Word brackets- e.g. find a four letter word which would form a compound word with either of the outer words: **foot (_ _ _ _) room**

Jumbled words

Anagrams

Use odd moments to reinforce spelling. For example, play word games during a car journey. Try filling out letter sequences on number plates to make words. (**BSN – business, bison, bursting, etc.**)

Allow children to use post-it notes on the back of bedroom doors to display their personal spelling list.