

SPELLING

AT

**BALCOMBE
SCHOOL**

Spelling at Balcombe School

As a school we want all our pupils to become fluent and effective writers; accurate spelling is a means to that end. At Balcombe we are working hard to help children become better spellers.

Sometimes children will bring home spelling related homework, or you may want to help your child to become a better speller. This leaflet will give you a few tips as to how to help.

REMEMBERING SPELLINGS

Here are some strategies that will help your child to become a confident and accurate speller:

- Sound words out: break word down into phonemes (e.g. c-a-t, sh-e-ll) – many words cannot be sounded out so other strategies are also needed;
- Divide the word into syllables, say each syllable as they write the word e.g. re-mem-ber (each syllable should have a vowel in it).
- Mnemonics such as big elephants can always understand small elephants (because).
- Find words inside words e.g. there is a 'rat' in separate.
- This is also a good method to use:

LOOK at the word carefully

SAY it aloud

COVER the word up and encourage child to see it in their mind.

WRITE the word from memory

CHECK the spelling to see if they have got it right. If they got it wrong look at the parts that they got wrong, and have another go.

SPELLING AT HOME

The early stages

- Read to your child and tell them stories
- Provide experiences for children to draw, and paint words using a variety of colours.
- Encourage children to experiment with writing.
- Encourage children to read what they have written.
- Play 'I spy....'
- Display and show your enjoyment of your child's early attempts.



Moving on!

- Remind your child about capital letters at the beginning of sentences and for names.
- Notice interesting words in stories, information books, T.V. programmes.



- Help your child use a simple dictionary.
- Ensure your child's pronunciation is correct.
- Play and create spelling games that draw attention to visual patterns and common letter sequences

e.g. snap, Junior Scrabble, Boggle etc.

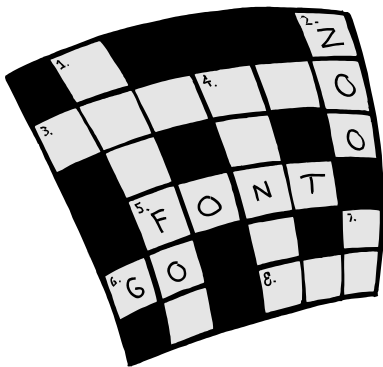
- Make up wordsearches.

- Use spellcheckers on the computer.
- Encourage your child to write for you: shopping lists, letters, holiday plans, messages.
- Encourage reading.



The independent speller

- Help your child to use a range of interesting vocabulary and use a thesaurus to look up alternative words.
- Develop ways of remembering more complex spellings (see above)
- Encourage proof reading of own writing and to recognise if a word is spelt incorrectly.



- Allow access to a wide variety of books and word games.



Computers

Children usually enjoy using computers. Play spelling games online. There are many available. Here are just two to get you started:

‘Spellits’ bbc.co.uk
Times Spelling Bee

