

Strategies to help your child learn to spell a word

When your child is trying to learn a word:

- First let them have-a-go at spelling it.
- Then note all the letters which are correct.
- ❖ If some are incorrect, often there is a good reason, eg. 'handsome' may be spelt 'hansom'. Praise the child for having a sensible go at spelling the word as this is how it sounds.
- Then divide the word into syllables and see if this helps or if letters are reversed, focus only on those letters rather than the whole word. Sometimes focusing on a common spelling convention also helps.
- Then try the 'look, cover, write, check' method.

Look

Look carefully at the word:

- Does it have a special shape?
- What letters seem to go together?
- Are there any parts you know?

Say

Say the word and

- Listen to the way it sounds.
- Listen to yourself spelling it.
- Listen to each letter as you say it.
- Do this 2 or 3 times.

Cover

Cover the word and close your eyes.

- Picture the word in your mind.
- Say the word then say each letter as you spell it.
- CHECK did you get it right?
- (If not, go back to LOOK)

Write

Have another look at the word.

- Trace over each letter saying each letter as you trace over it.
- Write in the air.
- Write in your mind.
- Say it again. Spell it again.
- Now write it down. Say each letter as you write it.

Check

Did you write the word correctly?

- If incorrect, study the parts you got wrong.
- Correct them.
- Go back to LOOK.