

Developmental Stages for Spelling

EMERGENT SPELLERS Ages: 1-7 ~ Grades: pre-K to mid-1

Does your child spell this way – Random marks, representational drawing, mock linear or letter-like writing, random letters and numbers.

Activities to do – Talking and reading to children reveals the sounds and meanings of language. Alphabet games and activities develop letter recognition and letter naming. Matching games with upper and lower case help develop letter recognition. Sort pictures according to beginning sounds.

LETTER-NAME SPELLERS Ages: 4-9 ~ Grades: K to early 3

Does your child spell this way –

M MN MIN	mine	J JV JRF DRIV	drive
T TP TEP	tip	N NT NAT	net
S SD SAD SED	send	S SC SK SEK	sick
B BK BAK	back	L LP LOP LUP LOMP	lump

Activities to do – Compare and contrast initial and final consonant sounds through picture sorts. Develop sight-word vocabulary through word banks. Hunt for words that begin or end the same. Sort pictures and words to contrast single consonant sounds with consonant blends. When vowels appear regularly in your child's spelling, compare and contrast short vowel word families through picture and word sorts. Focus on the sound and spelling of one short vowel, then compare across short vowel patterns.

WITHIN-WORD PATTERN SPELLERS Ages: 6-12 ~ Grades: 1 to mid-4

Does your child spell this way –

SEET, SETE	seat	CRALL, CRAUL	crawl
NALE	nail	LAFE	laugh
ROAP	rope	TROPE	troop
CRIE	cry	BAKE	back
FOWND	found	BOTE	boat

Activities to do -- Sort pictures to contrast long and short vowels. Use word sorts to examine long vowel patterns (such as sorting words according to use of ai, ay, a__e patterns). Collect words in word study notebooks. Conduct word hunts for specific long and complex vowel patterns. Play board games to contrast r-influenced vowels. Play games with homophones (words that sound the same but are spelled differently, such as sail and sell).

SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES SPELLERS Ages: 8+ ~ Grades: 3-8

Does your child spell this way –

HOPING	hopping	ATEND	attend
CONFUSSHUN	confusion	PLESURE	pleasure
CAPCHUR	capture	HOCKY	hockey
BARBAR	barber	DISPOSUL	disposal

Activities to do – Study consonant doubling, common suffixes, and past tense endings in sorts and word hunts. Examine open and closed syllables. Examine placement of syllable stress in homographs (words that sound the same but are spelled differently). Notice the parts of speech for changes in spellings. Compare accents in words. Compare words that end in the *el*, *er*, and *cher* sounds. Study common prefixes. Relate spelling and meaning in word study groups. Study words from reading by patterns in spelling and meaning.

DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS SPELLERS Ages: 9+ ~ Grades: 4-12

Does your child spell this way –

SOLEM	solemn	OPPOSITION	opposition
CRITASIZE	criticize	BENAFIT	benefit
AMMUSEMENT	amusement	APPEARANCE	appearance

Activities to do – Examine the spelling-meaning connection. Study prefixes and suffixes and syllables. Note how words came from Greek and Latin roots and foreign words.