

Welcome to our  
Spelling Workshop

"My spelling is wobbly. It's good spelling, but it wobbles, and letters get in the wrong place."

**Winnie the Pooh**

*Good spelling instruction must give you the power to spell words you have never seen before.*

Children who struggle with spelling usually have no strategies up their sleeve when they get stuck on a word. Ask any weak spellers the question, 'what do you do when you cannot spell a word'. They will have, at best, one strategy. But it is most likely that they guess. To help them become better spellers they need to acquire a range of different approaches to help them.

*Pie Corbett*

## What makes a good speller?

Good visible memory

Recognise rhyme

Distinguish sounds around them

Oral blending (putting sounds together)

Segmenting (breaking up words)

Observe order of events

recognise parts of a whole

Syllables

Rules/conventions /strategies

Recognising Patterns

Exceptions /tricky words

Alphabet - sounds and names

Link letters with sounds

Hold a pen

Prefixes /suffixes

positive attitude

perseverance

## Complex Speed Sounds

### Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							

### Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				<u>a-e</u>	y	<u>i-e</u>	<u>o-e</u>
					ai	ea	ie	oa
						e	i	o
							y	

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
<u>u-e</u>			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							

We start by teaching **high frequency words**. High frequency words are words which occur most frequently, for example, "and", "the", "as" and "it". They are often words that have little meaning on their own, but they do contribute a great deal to the meaning of a sentence. Some of the high frequency words can be sounded out using basic phonic rules, e.g. "it" is an easy word to read using phonics. However, many of the high frequency words are not phonically regular and are therefore hard to read in the early stages. These words are sometimes called tricky words.

# MNEMONICS

said

Silly ants in dresses!

Big Elephants Can Always Understand  
Small Elephants = Because

You wouldn't want to FRI the END of  
your friend! = Friend

We went TO GET HER = Together

Words within words

Grandmother

Somewhere

pretending

# Good Spellers Apply:

Phonics

Words within words

Grammatical knowledge

Memory and experience

Existing knowledge

Synonyms

# What can you do to help ?

Spend some time helping - little and often is best

Play games - make it as fun and enjoyable as possible

Lots of encouragement !

## Why is spelling so difficult?

1. There are different ways of spelling the same sound

The words 'tall' and 'shawl' rhyme, for example, but the 'aw' sound is spelt differently in each.

2. This can sometimes include words that sound *exactly* the same

The words 'hair' and 'hare', for example, sound the same, but mean different things.

3. Some words have totally different meanings but are spelt and pronounced the same

These words are called *homonyms*. The word 'ball', for example, can refer to both a toy and to a formal dance.

4. What about words that are spelt the same but are pronounced differently?

Yes, perhaps unfortunately, these exist too! These words are called *heteronyms*. The words 'desert', 'tear', and 'number', for example, can all mean two different things depending on how they are pronounced