

## Suggested Spelling Activities for Home

We will be sending home a list of words that follow a particular rule. The children have been instructed on this rule and will continue to practice it throughout the year. If you so choose, below are some activities that can be done at home to support your child's spelling and reading development.

We are not teaching the children to memorize words. We are teaching them to analyze the sounds they hear or the letter patterns they see and encoding or decoding accordingly.

The use of unconventional materials has the best impact. Anytime a child's large muscles (moving the entire arm) can be used when learning a new concept is better than just fine motor (just using the hand) it is more likely to be incorporated into the muscle memory. (Muscle memory is the body knowing the movements without really thinking too much about it. For example, writing your name with your eyes closed. Your muscles have done it so many times that it seems automatic.)

### Kinesthetic Materials

#### *Materials that support gross motor movement*

- Chalkboard or large paper on an easel or taped to the wall (perpendicular surfaces are great!)
- Soap or shaving cream on the shower wall ☺
- Using their finger to spell words in a rug or carpet
- Using the light from a flashlight to spell words on the wall or ceiling
- Paintbrush with water and spelling words on the sidewalk or driveway.

- Skywriting with just their straight arm in the air and their finger pointing like a pen.

### *Materials that support fine motor movement*

- Small dry erase boards or chalkboards
- Cookie tray with flour, rice, cornmeal, etc.
- Moving magnetic letters (They can be kept on a cookie sheet)
- Using marker or crayons on paper (Try putting a piece of sand paper under the paper and have your child trace the bumpy results with his/her finger)
- Paint apps on tablets that allow children to write with their finger and allowing them to change the effects.

### **Procedures for spelling practice**

1. Adult says the word
2. Student repeats the word.
3. Students isolates each sound in the word by holding up one finger for each sound. Other items like chips, pennies and, buttons can also be used. For example, cat would have three fingers up.
4. Student names the letters that spell the sound
5. Student writes the letters and names the letters as he/she writes

### **Procedures for reading practice**

1. Adult writes the word down
2. Student spells the letters in the word
3. Student says the sounds in the word
4. Student blends the sounds together and reads the word.

We are never done with practicing rule words. If there are no new words practice old words. Have your child spell two types of rule words

so they can work on their word analysis skills. These are fun quick activities that can have a big impact.

### **Journal Prompts Calendar**

If you feel like you want to support your child at home with writing, we suggest you get a composition notebook to keep at home. Each month we will send home a calendar with journal prompts. You can choose to use these prompts or your child may have her/his own ideas.

#### **Focuses**

Spacing between words

Spelling sight words

Capitals letters at the beginning of sentences

Ending punctuation marks (. ? !)

Applying spelling rules

Logical sequence of sentences

We have sent home a word journal with common sight words for your child to use at home.