

How can you help your child learn their spellings?

There are lots of ways you can help your Year 1 child with spelling. Here are my top ideas.

1. Practise phonics

RWI phonics is the main way your child will learn to spell at Hexham First. You can use phonics by encouraging your child to spell a word by using Fred Talk to break it into individual sounds and then matching those sounds to the letters of the alphabet.

RWI Phonics is a way of teaching children to read and spell. English is made up of around 44 different sounds. We call these sounds phonemes. Like most languages, English has a code for how we write these sounds down. Each phoneme can be represented by one or more letters.

Reminding children to Fred talk 'frog' into its four sounds – 'f' 'r' 'o' 'g' – speaking in pure sounds, is the way we teach children to spell, but practicing it is very important if it is to become second nature.

Help with spelling homework

When words come home as a list to learn, then helping your child to learn them can be really helpful. If they are struggling to remember them, you might:

Draw their attention to any patterns or groups of letters in the words, making links to the phonics they've been taught:

'which letters are making the 'ay' sound here? Yes, it's the 'ai', just like in 'gain' and 'Spain'. That's different to the 'ay' sound in 'play', isn't it?'

Use over-pronunciation. So for Wednesday, encourage children to say Wed-nes-day as they write. There are lots of words which feature sounds that aren't always pronounced clearly.

Play spelling games

Playing games can help children to learn about spelling in an enjoyable way. Watch grammar expert Charlotte Raby's video 'How can I help my child with grammar, punctuation and spelling?' to see some fun and easy games:

Online games such as Word Worm can be motivating, and so can more traditional games like hangman. Making silly sentences can be great fun too. Challenge your child to write a silly sentence, including as many of the words on their spelling list as possible.

For example, your child may have to learn 'room took hoop foot book'. They could make up a silly sentence such as 'The boy took his book across the room but got his foot caught in a hoop'. Why not draw illustrations to go with the sentences?

This is the link to the information above, resources and the Charlotte Raby video.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/english/primary-spelling/spelling-year-1-age-5-6/>