

Spelling Success

Activities to Strengthen Skills

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TN-2207 *Spelling Success*

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P.O. Box 57037 Number 448 Irvine, CA 92619-2619

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Spelling Success in Your Classroom



How to Help Your Students Become Better Spellers

- *Teach spelling as a thinking activity, not as a memorization activity.*
For example, teach your students to analyze lists of words by looking for patterns and other similarities, rather than have them memorize lists of unrelated words.
- *Teach spelling by using groups of words that have the same pattern.*
Groups of words with the same pattern belong to the same word family. Teaching children to recognize word families equips them with reliable skills to easily spell a multitude of words.
- *Provide regular instruction in spelling concepts, word patterns, and word construction.*
Be sure to specifically teach a variety of spelling concepts. Use daily five- to ten-minute spelling mini-lessons to zero in on the specific spelling skills that your students need.
- *Teach specific strategies to use when spelling unknown words.*
Show students how to try writing words until they look right and how to look for word-family patterns when trying to spell an unknown word.

Several times a day, when you're writing on the board, actively model the strategies you use when you're trying to spell a word.

**SuperStar
Teacher
Tip**



How to Discourage Your Students from Becoming Better Spellers

- *Make spelling the key part of your writing program.*
- *Require perfect spelling in every piece of writing.*
- *Teach students that all words have to be memorized.*

Spelling Lists and a Weekly Spelling Plan

The Ideal Spelling List

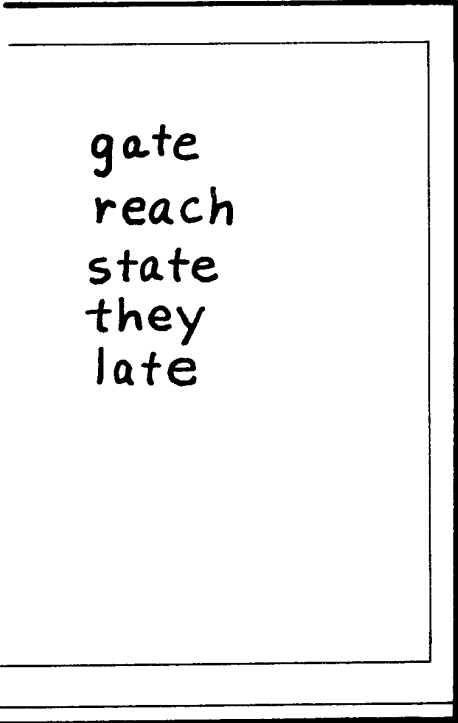
It's important to provide weekly lists of spelling words that are challenging but not overwhelming to students. Ideally, about half of the spelling list should be words with which the students are already familiar. These words reinforce spelling patterns and common words that are known to the students. The other half of the list should be composed of words that are new to the students.

Introducing the Spelling Words—Day One

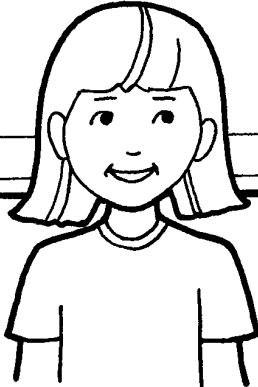
Introduce the words to your students with a spelling pretest. Make this an upbeat, success-oriented activity by providing lots of encouragement and the opportunity for students to go over the list, ensuring perfect papers for everyone! Say the word and have students repeat the word and write it on their papers. Say a word again and write it on the chalkboard. Have students check the spelling of the word they've written and make any necessary corrections. As a whole class, read through the list of words aloud again. Talk about the meaning of the words.

Analyzing the Spelling Words—Day 2

Refer to the list of spelling words on the chalkboard. Have students look for similarities and common patterns among the words. Discuss initial sounds and ending sounds, rhyming patterns, and affixes. Go through the list, sorting the words by their similarities. Group the words that share similar spelling patterns. Next, erase one letter from half of the words on the list, and have students copy these words, supplying the missing letters. Then erase two or three letters from the remaining words. Again, have students copy the words, supplying the missing letters. Go over the words, making sure that children correctly wrote the missing letters.



gate
reach
state
they
late



Gate, late,
and state rhyme.
They belong to the
-ate word family.