

Spelling: This year, students will be continuing the spelling program used in Grade 2 (Words Their Way). Every **Day 1**, your child will be bringing home a collection of spelling words that have been introduced in class. Each night of the week, your child is expected to do a different activity to ensure that these words and the spelling principles they represent are mastered.

These activities have been modeled and practiced in school, so your child can teach you how to do them. Since students will be working at the spelling level best suited for them, not all children in the class will be taking home the same words. Our spelling program will begin mid-September.

Day 1: Remind your child to *sort the words* into categories like the ones we did in school. Your child should read each word aloud during this activity. Ask your child to explain to you why the words are sorted in a particular way - what does the sort reveal about spelling in general? Ask your child to sort them a second time as fast as possible.

Day 2: Do a *blind or no peeking sort* with your child. Lay down a word from each category as a header and then read the rest of the words aloud. Your child must indicate where the word goes without seeing it. Lay it down and let your child move it if he/she is wrong. Repeat if your child makes more than one error.

Day 3: Assist your child in doing a *word hunt*, looking for words in a familiar book that have the same sound, pattern or both. Try to find two or three for each category.

Day 4: Do a *writing sort* to prepare for the test. As you call out the words in a random order, your child should write them in categories. Call out any words that your child spells incorrectly a second or even third time.

Day 5: Your child will be tested on these words in class.

Students will be completing their spelling tests using the online testing website SpellingCity.com. Each Day 5, students will log into the SpellingCity website at school, and using one of our iPads complete their spelling test. Students are given a unique username and password that is not shared with anyone other than your child and myself.

In addition to testing, Spellingcity.com also allows students to practice their spelling using a variety of games, activities and pre-tests. Students are encouraged to log in to Spellingcity.com at home and to use these activities to further enhance their spelling homework activities.

A link to the Spellingcity.com website is available on our class webpage along with each groups weekly spelling words (should your child lose his/her paper copy). Parents are encouraged to log into their child's account to view their progress and test scores. Paper print outs are available by request.

<http://www.spellingcity.com/vharling/>