



The Word Study Approach to Spelling.

What is word study?

Word study is an approach where children read words and study them for patterns and rules. It involves a lot of sorting words on cards. This can start from Foundation Stage, where children look at pictures and sort them perhaps by their first sound, or if they rhyme. Once children are blending in FS, they would start to look at sorting simple CVC words for patterns, e.g. all words which end in 'at'.

By reading words over and over again this helps to read words fluently, and by seeing them often (it is said that words need to be seen 100 times before they can be spelt automatically- links to reading often!) to learn to spell them.

Word Study is not about passive learning.

It is not about memorising words for a weekly spelling test and then forgetting them thereafter.

It is not taught in isolation from reading and writing.

Do we teach all spellings in this way?

Word study does not teach children to spell tricky words, those which are not phonetically plausible e.g. said, they, were. We approach these words by learning the whole word, and sometimes by making up mnemonic rhymes- should- sh oh u lucky ducks. The children often make up their own! There are specific lists of these words for each year group. We also learn these by playing Tic Tac Toe games (see back of sheet)

Word Study involves, collaborating, reading, talking, and looking for patterns, sorting, acting, widening vocabulary, vowels and consonants, making decisions, learning spelling rules and then ultimately being able to spell the words studied. **We get to love words!**

Let's have a go at a word sort...

TIC TAC TOE SPELLING

This board has different activities to help your child learn his/her spellings. Your child must choose at least 3 activities to complete their homework. Only choose at the most 7 words each week, perhaps 5 for younger children. You know your child! The activities must make a tic tac toe line; vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Please mark your choices in crayon, pencil or felt tip pen. Parents you are encouraged to assist your child to make spelling homework a positive learning experience. Have fun!

<p>REPEAT Write your words 3 times for each one.</p>	<p>CAPITAL LETTERS WRITE YOUR WORDS IN CAPITAL LETTERS.</p>	<p>HANDWRITE Practise writing your words in your best neat handwriting. Sit letters on the line and think about long ladder letter and those which sit under the line. If you are in Y2 and learning to join think about which letters have diagonal and horizontal joins, and which letters do not join.</p>
<p>COLOURS Write your spellings out using red for vowel letter (a,e,i,o,u) and blue for consonants(the rest of the alphabet).</p>	<p>RAINBOW LETTERS Write out each word using different rainbow colours. Feel proud of your page of words!</p>	<p>WORD DETECTIVE Add up your words scores and write them at the side of your word(eg then=4, it=2) Y2 challenge- you could number the letters of the alphabet (eg A=1, B=2, C=3) and work out how much each word is worth!</p>
<p>STEP WORDS Write your words adding one letter at a time. w wa was</p>	<p>SCRAMBLE Ask an adult to write your words mixed up to see if you can unscramble them. Or you scramble them for an adult or older brother or sister to unscramble. Make sure you use all of the correct letters!</p>	<p>SPELLING BASEBALL You need paper, pencil and a counter. Draw 4 bases. The pitcher (bowler) chooses a word and if you can spell it out loud using letter names you can move onto the first base. You get a point every time you pass home base.</p>

The link to the word study site

<https://wordstudyspelling.com/>

Information on common exception words

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-exception-words>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/ks2-high-frequency-words-flashcards>