



# **20 Spelling Activity Ideas for Primary**

## SPELLING IS A TALENT NOT AN IQ MEASUREMENT

First of all, let me say, language research tells us that Spelling accuracy is a talent you are born with & NOT a sign of a person's intelligence. Many brilliant people are "horrible" spellers. Good readers & writers are not necessarily good spellers.

However, you can improve your spelling as a skill-set with effort & practice.

I grouped students into 3-4, levels, depending on the year, using an general word list inventory as a guide to place them with words at their skill level yet provide them enough challenge for learning.

School districts vary with their Spelling guidelines. Some leave to each classroom to decide. Others adopt an entire Spelling program for Elementary grades to implement in their classrooms.

Some Districts give a Spelling grade on the report card while others require it to be a part of Writing.

Early grades usually concentrated on word families & sight words with a few themed vocabulary words thrown in for bonus points. Later grades practiced harder phonetic spelling words , especially unusual ones that don't "follow a rule". Bonus vocabulary words were, again, added for bonus points.

Spelling accountability was part of edited & Final Copies of Written Expressions.

## MY WEEKLY SPELLING HOMEWORK FOR K~3

Using those old-school, hard-covered Composition books seem to travel & last longer than spirals or folders for my students. The Weekly Sequence was cut & pasted to the inside of the front cover for easy reference.

Words were always reviewed in class on Day 1 for pronunciation & understanding, which we defined together as a class, using synonyms, antonyms & sentences. We would, also, discuss whether the word was a naming or action word.

Usually, beginning with the second month of school, we would have a weekly Spelling Bee for a few minutes while waiting in line to go to lunch or other activities.

Homework was checked everyday for accuracy & completion. They could increase their scores with corrections since I circled, not X'd errors.

Students were given time on Day 5 to study words with a partner before the test.

In Second & Third grades, I gave at least 5 sentences of dictation, trying to include student-written sentences & always including the 4 types of sentences, especially in Third grade.

# MY WEEKLY SPELLING HOMEWORK FOR K~3

## Kindergarten & First

- Word List count: 5-8
- Day 1: cut out letters, make the words & glue them to the first blank page of the Weekly Word List
- Day 2: Write each word 3-5 times on the back of the cut & glue page
- Day 3: Write 2-3 sentences, using the Spelling words from the Weekly Word List.
- Day 4: Take a Pre-test. If not scoring 70% or above, write sentences, using the rest of the words.
- Day 5: Spelling Test

## Second

- Word List count: 8-10
- Day 1: Cut & glue onto page as a rule-sort
- Days 2 & 3: Choose write words in ABC order or 3-5 times plus use the words in 1-2 sentences.
- Day 4: Take a Pre-test. If not scoring 70% or above, write sentences using the remaining Spelling words.
- Day 5: Spelling Test

## Third

- Word List count: 10-15
- Day 1 : Word sort~make the rule
- Follow Days 2-5 with 3-5 sentences each day.

**YOU CAN, ALSO, INCLUDE or DO INSTEAD:**

- Write the list of spelling words with one color for consonants & one for vowels.
- Use 4-6 colors when writing the spelling words.
- Draw & color a picture for each of the words.
- Write the spelling words into syllables.
- Make a word search, using the spelling words. Include words from past lists.
- Write the words in dirt or sand.
- Rhyme words to go with the spelling words.
- Form words in playdough.
- Make the spelling words with alphabet stickers or letter stamps.
- Use letter cubes to spell words.
- Use magnetic letters on a cookie sheet to spell the words on the list.
- Hold a Spelling Bee, using past & current list words
- Make up questions or riddles with spelling word as the answer.
- Write 3 choices for spelling the word, circling the correct one.
- Create a poem, using the spelling words.