

Dyslexia Friendly School Project
Spelling support for parents
October 2024



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Church of England Primary School



Plan for the session:

- To explain some of the difficulties dyslexic learners experience with spelling and reasons why
 - To share some useful strategies to support with the teaching of spellings at home
 - To look at a multisensory approach to spelling and the different ways in which spellings can be reinforced
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Introduction

- Spelling is one of the biggest and most widely experienced difficulties for somebody with dyslexia.
- Most dyslexic people can learn to read well with the right support, however spelling is often a difficulty that persists into adulthood.
- Dyslexia impacts upon phonological processing and memory, therefore, dyslexic individuals have difficulty hearing the different small sounds in words (phonemes) and can't break them down into smaller parts in order to spell them.
- Many children with dyslexia find it difficult to learn how letters and sounds correspond and therefore cannot recall the right letters to spell the sounds in words.

What skills do we need to spell?

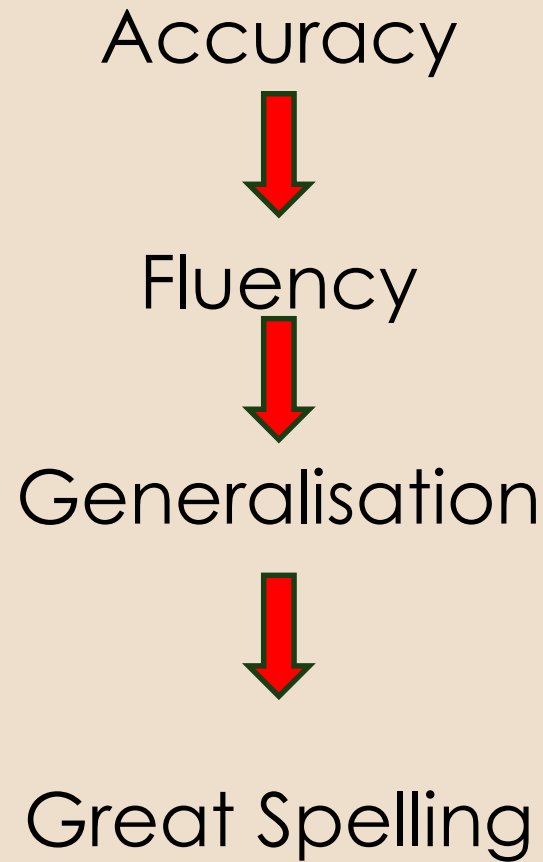


- Visual discrimination, memory, sequencing
- Auditory discrimination, memory, sequencing
- Phonological skills e.g syllable and phoneme blending and segmentation
- Letter formation, handwriting, keyboard skills

The route to learning spellings...



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Spelling challenges for dyslexic children



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Poor visual memory

- Children with dyslexia often have problems building mental pictures of how words should look and so cannot check a word against the blueprint in their memory as they don't have a correct one.
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Spelling challenges for dyslexic children



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Difficulty remembering patterns

- Dyslexic children struggle committing patterns to memory. They often don't develop mental rules for things like prefixes, suffixes and plurals, therefore they often get spellings wrong by not applying patterns correctly.
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Spelling challenges for dyslexic children



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Irregular words

- Along with struggling to remember patterns, pupils with dyslexia have difficulty with the vast number of irregular words in the English language e.g because, was, said.
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Spelling challenges for dyslexic children



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Embedded errors

- Children with dyslexia may have poor visual memory, but they often have a good motor memory e.g they learn by doing. Therefore, the more they spell a word incorrectly, the more automatic the wrong spelling will become.
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Spelling challenges for dyslexic children



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Jumbled letter and sounds

- Children with dyslexia and visual stress often have problems remembering the order of letters in a written word and sometimes even the way round the letters go.
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Spelling challenges for dyslexic children



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Pressure and frustration

- Being unable to spell at the same level as your classmates can be humiliating and upsetting for children with dyslexia. Spelling tests can be a particular source of embarrassment and frustration.
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How can I help my child with spelling?



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Practise sequencing

- This doesn't always need to be sequences of letters, this could be coloured patterns or sequences of numbers.
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How can I help my child with spelling?



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Use their senses

- Use of plastic letters, whiteboard pens, felt tips and tracing activities.
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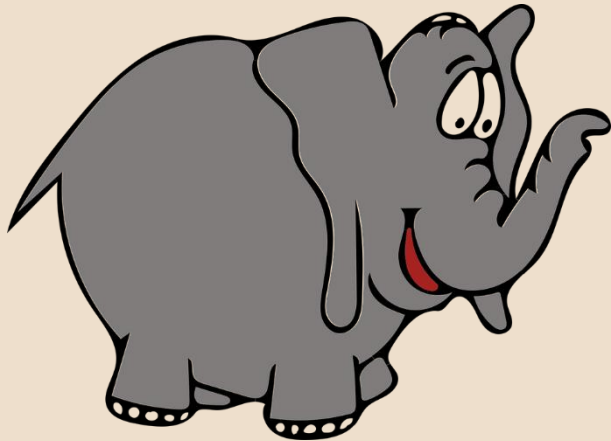
How can I help my child with spelling?



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Mnemonics

- These are memory aids. Picture and colour clues can help children remember spellings.



**Big Elephants Can't
Add Up Sums Easily**

How can I help my child with spelling?



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Learn commonly used words

- These words make up 25% of all text and so learning to spell these words accurately will help with writing fluency and accuracy:

a, and, he, I, in, is, it, my, of, that, the, then, to, was, went, with

How can I help my child with spelling?



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Joined up writing

- Developing a cursive script can be beneficial to children with dyslexia as they build muscle memory of the word as a whole.
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How can I help my child with spelling?



Differentiated spelling tests

- Weekly spelling tests can be very stressful for pupils with dyslexia. Differentiated words or a focus on spelling patterns can help to build confidence.
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How can I help my child with spelling?



Give credit for content

- Give more weight to content of written work as opposed to accuracy.
 - Have a small set of non-negotiable spellings that will be a focus in writing as opposed to expecting 100% spelling accuracy.
 - When marking spelling tests, tick each letter within the word to build confidence.
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How can I help my child with spelling?



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Use technology

- Use spelling apps
 - Practise spellings using the computer (without the spell checker on) to take handwriting out of the equation
 - Experiment with dyslexia friendly dictionaries, electronic spellcheckers and thesaurus to see if any work for your child
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Spelling Games



- Spellamadoodle cards
 - Eye Spy
 - Countdown/Scrabble/Boggle
 - Hangman
 - Wordsearches
 - Word snap/Lotto
 - Speed Spell
 - Use of syllables
 - Making word families
 - Mnemonics
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Spelling Games



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Spelling Games



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Apps and Games



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- Nessy
 - Spelling City
 - Spelling Whizz
 - Squeebles
 - Wonster Words
 - Online Hangman
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Remember....



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- Little and often
 - Flexible and fun
 - Consolidation
 - Application
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Any Questions?



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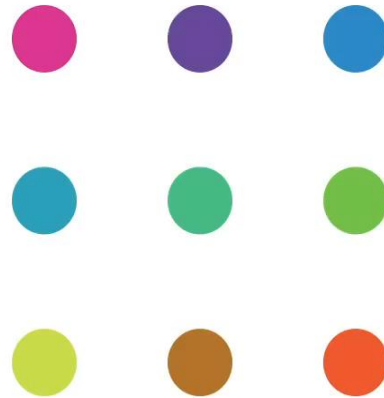
<https://malmesburyprimaryschool.co.uk/dyslexia-friendly-schools-project/>

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

Thank You!



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DYSLEXIA