



Beancross Primary School

Active Literacy (Spelling) A Guide for Parents

Dear Parents,

Active Literacy

We have put together a short guide to our Active Literacy Spelling Programme for your information. We have explained the terminology that is used in class and provided some examples to illustrate these. Towards the end of this booklet, we have included some spelling activities that could be used at home to reinforce learning.

I hope that the information contained is helpful and supportive to home learning tasks.

Thank you for your support.

Andrew Watson
Headteacher



Ambition – Motivation – Nurture – Respect

What is a Phoneme?

A phoneme is a unit of sound. It can be one letter, two letters or a group of letters that make a single sound.

Single Sound	a	as in	<u>a</u> pple
	d	as in	<u>d</u> og
Joined Phoneme	sh	as in	<u>sh</u> op
	ch	as in	<u>ch</u> urch
	ight	as in	<u>li</u> ght <u>si</u> ght
Split Phoneme	a-e	as in	<u>la</u> <u>ne</u>
	i-e	as in	<u>li</u> <u>ne</u>

Sometimes in school we refer to the phoneme programme as **Phonics**.

What are common words? What are phoneme words?

Common words are words that are used most commonly in reading books or by the children to write in school.

Phoneme words are words that can be sounded out, or can be placed in an elkonin box or can be diacritically marked.

What are whiteboards?

Whiteboards are laminated boards that are used in class for the children to make words, write sentences or revise letter formation. Children use a dry wipe marker on these boards.

What are magnetic boards?

Magnetic boards are boards with a thin layer of metal. The boards are used with magnetic letters and the children are encouraged to make, break and blend words on these boards. They are mainly used in primary one, two and three.

**What is the FIVE Finger Strategy?**

From primary one the children are taught the **FIVE Finger Strategy**. It is basically an easy way for the children to remember what they need to be able to do with each of their spelling words. The strategy words alongside the magnetic boards with magnetic letters.

SAY	The children say the word
MAKE/ BREAK	The children make the word and they break it into its different sounds
BLEND	The children push the word back together and run their finger under the word as they say it.
READ	The children read the word
WRITE	The children write the word



What is Reciprocal Teaching?

In its very simplest form, reciprocal teaching just means that the children become the teacher and teach their partner a word, a sound a process etc. Research shows that when children are involved in teaching a new process, sound or word, they retain more than 80% of what they have learned.

What are Elkonin Boxes?

These boxes are named after their inventor and they are a great way for children to demonstrate that they can pick out all of the different sounds within a word. Every sound is placed in its own box.

If you think about the word faster and say it out loud, you can hear every letter making a sound.

f	a	s	t	e	r
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

In the word speed, you don't hear the 'e' sound, you hear 'ee.' Speed would look like this:

s	p	ee	d
----------	----------	-----------	----------

In the word 'elephant' the 'ph' makes a 'f' sound and is placed in a box like this. The other letters can all be heard making a sound.

e	l	e	ph	a	n	t
----------	----------	----------	-----------	----------	----------	----------

It is really important to remember that Elkonin Boxes can only be used when the word can be sounded out phonetically. The word 'the' will not work within an Elkonin Box and is a word that doesn't really follow a spelling rule. Words like 'the' are referred to as 'common words' and the children are encouraged to remember how to spell these using strategies such as 'look, cover, say, write check' or with word shapes.

What is Diacritical Marking?

Not all words will fit inside an elkonin box, especially when we introduce split phonemes to the children. Instead, they use a strategy called diacritical marking. The principle behind this strategy is to encourage the children to think about all of the different sounds that make up a word.

Single Phoneme Sounds are marked with a dot



Joined Phoneme Sounds are marked with a line



Split Phoneme Sounds are marked with an arch



faster

speed

nine

Not all words will work in an elkonin box or with diacritical marking. For these words, we use **strategy spelling**.

What is strategy spelling?

From primary 4 onwards the children are introduced to strategy spelling. At this stage the children investigate different strategies and choose the one that works best for them to learn how to spell the new word. There are many different strategies and we have named a few below.

Knowledge and use of phonics	Place words into elkonin boxes or use diacritical marking.
Syllabification	Breaking words into syllables. Each syllable will have a vowel. going - go ing remember – re mem ber yesterday – yes ter day
Words within words	country count try example exam ample
Compound Words	breakfast break fast strawberry straw berry homework home work
Using analogy	If you know how to spell a word, you'll know how to spell others E.g. If you can spell light , then you can spell sight , might , fright etc.
Mnemonic	Children are encouraged to create their own memory aid. E.g. BECAUSE B ig E lephants C an A lways U nderstand S mall E lephants E.g. ENGAGEMENT Contains the word ENGAGE. You sometimes get a ring with a GEM in the middle E.g. NE <u>C</u> ESS <u>A</u> RY One <u>C</u> ollar, two <u>S</u> leeves
Spelling Rules (if appropriate)	'i,' before 'e' except after 'c'
One Syllable Words	Double the final consonant before adding an ending that starts with a vowel. E.g. drop – double the p and add ed – dropped.

Primary 6 and Primary 7

In Primary 6 and Primary 7, teachers will often revisit tricky words from previous stages. The children continue to use Elkonin Boxes and Diacritical Marking as well as the Spelling Strategies on the previous page. As well as revisiting and reinforcing words from previous stages, the teachers will introduce the children to 'affixes'.

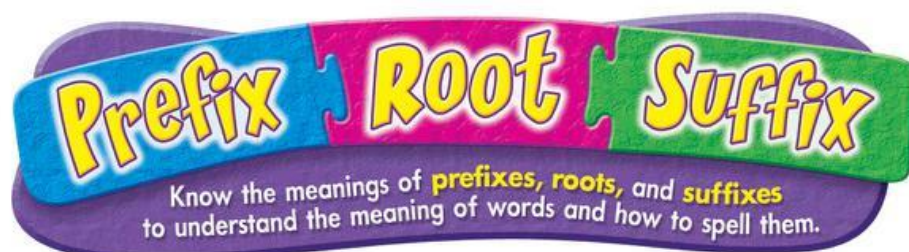
What are Affixes?

An affix is added to the **root** of a word to change its meaning.

An affix added to the front of a word is known as a prefix. One added to the back is known as a suffix. Sometimes, prefixes are hyphenated.

Examples of Affixes

- **Incapable** The affix is the prefix 'in'
 - **Autopilot** The affix is the prefix 'auto'
 - **Unfinished** The affix is the prefix 'un'
 - **Dislike** The affix is the 'prefix 'dis'
-
- **Danced** The affix is the suffix 'ed'
 - **Careful** The affix is the suffix 'ful'
 - **Quickly** The affix is the suffix 'ly'
 - **Kindness** The affix is the suffix 'ness'



Example Words				
actable	cycles	inactive	instructors	reclaimable
action	exact	inform	instructs	reclaims
active	extract	information	overact	recyclable
actor	exclaim	informative	overactive	recycle
acts	exclaims	informer	overacts	recycler
bicycle	exclaims	informs	react	recycles
bicycler	exclaims	instruct	reaction	reform
bicycles	exclaims	instruction	reactive	reformable
claimable	formable	instructions	reactor	reformation
claimer	formation	instructive	reacts	reformer
claims	former	instructor	reclaim	reforms

Prefix

- ★ Word part added to the beginning of a root or a base word
- ★ Contributes to the meaning of a word

Examples

Prefix	Meaning
bi-	two
ex-	former
in-	into, not
over-	too much
re-	again

Root

- ★ Main part of a word that gives the basic meaning of the word
- ★ Usually Latin or Greek in origin

Examples

Root	Meaning
act	do
claim	shout
cycl	circle, ring
form	shape
struct	build

Suffix

- ★ Word part added to the end of a base word or root
- ★ Contributes to the meaning of a word and sometimes helps identify the part of speech

Examples

Suffix	Meaning
-able, -ible	is, can be
-ation, -ion	state or quality of
-er, -or	more, one who
-ive	inclined to
-s	plural

Common Prefixes		
Prefix	Definition	Examples
anti-	against	anticlimax
de-	opposite	devalue
dis-	not; opposite of	discover
en-, em-	cause to	enact, empower
fore-	before; front of	foreshadow, forearm
in-, im-	in	income, impulse
in-, im-, il-, ir-	not	indirect, immoral, illiterate, irreverent
inter-	between; among	interrupt
mid-	middle	midfield
mis-	wrongly	misspell
non-	not	nonviolent
over-	over; too much	overeat
pre-	before	preview
re-	again	rewrite
semi-	half; partly; not fully	semifinal
sub-	under	subway
super-	above; beyond	superhuman
trans-	across	transmit
un-	not; opposite of	unusual
under-	under; too little	underestimate

Common Suffixes		
Suffix	Definition	Examples
-able, -ible	is; can be	affordable, sensible
-al, -ial	having characteristics of	universal, facial
-ed	past tense verbs; adjectives	the dog walked, the walked dog
-en	made of	golden
-er, -or	one who; person connected with	teacher, professor
-er	more	taller
-est	the most	tallest
-ful	full of	helpful
-ic	having characteristics of	poetic
-ing	verb forms; present participles	sleeping
-ion, -tion, -ation, -tion	act; process	submission, motion, relation, edition
-ity, -ty	state of	activity, society
-ive, -ative, -itive	adjective form of noun	active, comparative, sensitive
-less	without	hopeless
-ly	how something is	lovely
-ment	state of being; act of	contentment
-ness	state of; condition of	openness
-ous, -eous, -ious	having qualities of	riotous, courageous, gracious
-s, -es	more than one	trains, trenches
-y	characterised by	gloomy

Homework Tasks for Spelling Practice.

The homework tasks are designed to make the children think about their words, the letters that make them, the sounds etc.

30 Second Words

Write a TV commercial using all your spelling words. Read it to a parent or sibling!

ABC Order

Write your spelling words in a list. Then write them again in alphabetical order. Now write them in reverse alphabetical order.

Acrostic Poem

Choose one of your spelling words. Write an acrostic poem for that word. You must also illustrate your poem.

Adding My Words

Each letter has a value. Consonants are worth 10 and vowels are worth 5. Write your spelling words then add up the value of each word.

Bubble Letters

Write each of your spelling words in bubble letters. Colour with crayon or coloured pencils.

Buzzing Bees

Draw and colour an outdoor picture. Draw 8 bees then choose 8 of your spelling words and write them inside each of the bees.

Connect the Dots

Write your spelling words in dots. Then connect the dots by tracing over them with a coloured pencil.

Consonant Circle

Write each of your spelling words in a list then go back and circle all of the consonants in your words.

Fancy Letters

Write your spelling words using fancy letters.

Hidden Words

Draw a picture and write your spelling words in the picture. Try to hide the words!

Letter Writing

Write a letter to your friend using each of your spelling words. Underline the spelling words that you use in your letter.

Magazine Words

Use an old magazine or newspaper and find your spelling words (or use letters that make up your word) Cut then out and stick in your jotter.

Make Some Music

Write a song or rap that includes your words! Share with a family member.

Other Handed

If you are right handed, write your spelling words using your left hand. If you are left handed, write them using your right hand.

Rhyming Words

Write each of your spelling words. Next to each word, write a rhyming word with the same spelling pattern. If necessary, your rhyming words can be nonsense words.

Silly Sentences

Write silly sentences that include your spelling words. Underline your words.

Spelling Flower

Draw a picture of a great big flower. Write each of your spelling words on one of the flower petals or on a leaf. Draw extra flowers if you run out of room.

Spelling Poem

Write a poem using several of your spelling words. Underline the words that you use. Illustrate your poem.

Spelling Shapes

Draw one shape for each of your spelling words then write your words inside the shapes.

Squiggly Spelling Words

Write your words in squiggly letters.

Three Times

Write your spelling words three times. First in pencil, then write each word in crayon and then write each word in pen.

UPPER and Lower

Write your spelling words in UPPERCASE letters then in lowercase letters.

Vowel Circle

Write each of your words in a list. Then go back and circle all of the vowels in your word list.

Wordsearch

Make a wordsearch using your spelling words.

Words without Consonants

Write your spelling words in a list but replace all the consonants with a line. Then go back and fill in the missing consonants.

Words without Vowels

Write your spelling words but replace all the vowels with a line. Go back and fill in the correct missing vowels.