**Brindle Gregson Lane Primary School Spelling Strategies**

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| **Look, say, cover, write, check** | This is probably the most common strategy used to learn spellings.  **Look**: first look at the whole word carefully and if there is one part of the word that is difficult, look at that part in more detail.  **Say**: say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.  **Cover**: cover the word.  **Write**: write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so.  **Check**: Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again  – look, say, cover, write, check. |
| **Trace, copy and replicate**  **(and then check)** | This is a similar learning process to ‘look, say, cover, write, check’ but is about developing automaticity and muscle memory.  Write the word out on a sheet of paper ensuring that it is spelt correctly and it is large enough to trace over. Trace over the word and say it at the same time. Move next to the word you have just written and write it out as you say it. Turn the page over and write the word as you say it, and then check that you have spelt it correctly.  If this is easy, do the same process for two different words at the same time. Once you have written all your words this way and feel confident, miss out the tracing and copying or the tracing alone and just write the words. |
| **Segmentation strategy** | The splitting of a word into its constituent phonemes in the correct order to support spelling. |
| **Quickwrite** | Writing the words linked to the teaching focus with speed and fluency. The aim is to write as many words as possible within a time constraint.  You can write words provided by the teacher or generate your own examples. For example, in two minutes write as many words as possible with the /iː/ phoneme. This can be turned into a variety of competitive games including working in teams and developing relay race approaches. |
| **Drawing around the word to show the shape** | Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape. |

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| **Drawing an image around the word** | This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable.    You can’t use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember. |
| **Words without vowels** | This strategy is useful where the vowel choices are the challenge in the words. Write the words without the vowels and pupils have to choose the correct grapheme to put in the space. For example, for the word *field*: |
| **Pyramid words** | This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately.    You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond. |
| **Other strategies** | Other methods can include:   * Rainbow writing: use coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky part s of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour. You could also write each letter in a different colour, or write the word in red, then overlay in orange, yellow and so on. * Make up memorable ‘silly sentences’ containing the word * Clapping and count to identify the syllables in a word. * Connect the dots: write the words in dots then connect the dots by tracing over them with a colouring pencil. * Hidden words: draw a picture. Hide your spelling words inside your picture. Show your picture to someone and see if they can find your hidden words. * Bubble letters: write your spelling word in bubble letters and then colour them in. * Vowel circle: write each of your spelling words. Then go back and circle all of the vowels in your spelling words. * 3D words: use playdough or salt dough to sculpt your spelling words. * Type them: type your spelling words on the computer. Make each word have a different font. * Trace around: write each of your spelling words with a pencil. Then trace around each word with a coloured pencil, crayon or marker pen. |