

Spelling strategies at Bishops Down Primary School

Phonics approaches – first steps to spelling

Phoneme-grapheme correspondence.

- Stretch the word to hear all the sounds.
- Fred talk the word (segmenting the word by saying the sounds).
- Count the phonemes. Check children are hearing all the sounds.
- Write the word. Some phonemes are represented by digraphs (2 letters) or trigraphs (3 letters). Check if children are using the correct grapheme to represent each phoneme, e.g. /ai/ sound can be made using 'a-e' (cake), 'ay' (tray), 'ai' (aid), 'a' (table), 'ae' (sundae), 'ey' (prey), 'eigh' (eight) and 'ea' (break). Consider which graphemes are most likely, which look correct and where each grapheme would be found in a word, e.g. 'ay' would be used for an /ai/ sound at the end of word.
- Sound button (see below).
- Read the word and check (there are always the same number of graphemes and phonemes).

Dot, dash and count.

- Sound button (dot and dash) the graphemes in the spelling words.



- Write the number of sounds in each word e.g. 4 graphemes.

This is also a good opportunity to discuss unusual spellings, e.g. in the word delay, the /i/ sound is spelt with an e, the same as words such as enjoy and England. Creating word families can be helpful, e.g. thief, chief, belief, but not leaf.

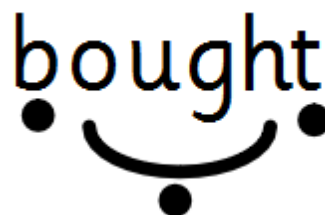
Spot the syllable.

- Say each word in full.
- Say the word in SYLLABLE, clapping at the same time, e.g. follow would be fo/llo/w.
- Write the word out split into syllables e.g. **a/ddress spy/ing**

Sort the grapheme.

- Tell the child the letter names of a grapheme from one of their spelling words, e.g. 'p h' in photo.
- The child then has to write it in the correct place in Table 1 in our attached resources. (e.g. they would write it in the /f / box)
- Repeat with another grapheme, e.g. 'y' in happy. (e.g. they would write it in the /ee/ box)

Is it tricky?



Look at a word and do the dot/dash/count activity, e.g.

Are any of the graphemes unusual, i.e. they do not appear in Table 2? Then this is a tricky word. Use one of the tricky word suggestions to help memorise it.