

SPELLING PRACTICE

Children learn spelling best when they discover the rules/patterns for themselves. Repeatedly copying the words is great for learning a word but does not allow for generalization of the spelling rules in the word to other words. Encourage your child to explore their spelling words to uncover the hidden rules.

1. Write the words neatly on a piece of paper leaving plenty of space between words to cut them into flash cards and take notes.
2. Clap out the syllables of each word and write the number of syllables in the corner.
3. Split the word into syllables. (The number of vowels will match the number of syllables/beats you wrote in the corner.)
For example: lady = la/dy; bake = bake; grate/ful

4. Mark up each word.

a. Underline the vowels.

la/dy bake grate/ful

b. Identify the rule pattern for each part of the word and mark it under the vowel.

la/dy bake grate/ful
 o o vce vce c

c. Indicate if the vowel is long (saying its name) or short (saying its sound)

1 2 1 1 2
 lā/dȳ bāke grāte/fūl
 o o vce vce c

5. Cut the words out.

6. Sort them into groups by rules/patterns. (The words above all have differences but they also have similarities. Lady and grateful are both 2 syllable words. Grateful and bake both have the Silent-e spelling rule in one syllable. Encourage your child to sort the words as many ways as they can as long as they can tell you how the words in each group go together.)

7. Write the rules that were discovered in columns on a piece of paper.

8. Write the words under the appropriate rule column.

