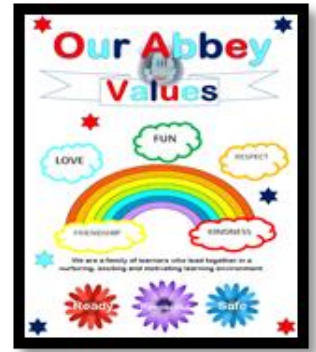


Abbey Primary and EYC

Spotlight on Spelling and Phonics

Parent and School as Partners



At Abbey Primary our approach to spelling is based on techniques and strategies recommended by the Literacy Base within North Lanarkshire Council.

In Primary 1 to 3 we teach phonics and spelling as two separate subject areas to enhance the pupil's skills in word building, reading, writing and spelling.

From Primary 4, these two areas are combined and children continue to develop their phonemic awareness and understanding through a structured and comprehensive programme that aims to build confidence and engage children in their learning in an enjoyable and interactive way.

The programme aims to provide a logical approach to the process of Phonics into Spelling. It consists of 15 units with each unit concentrating on a specific focus phoneme.

Over a ten day period the teacher will:

- Introduce the focus phoneme
- Give feedback and involve children in partner work
- Model the splitting of phonemes using elkonin boxes
- Introduce the LOOK, THINK and INVESTIGATE strategy
- Involve children in Reciprocal Teaching through Partner Spelling and Dictation
- Introduce and model the Diacritical Marking Code and Methodology Diacritical marking involves investigating words recognising and identifying which phonemes are contained within each word
- Involve the children in Diacritical Marking
- Introduce the Phoneme Story for the focus phoneme and involve the children in identifying this phoneme within the text



•Monitor, support and assess children's efforts in Diacritical Marking in particular.

Spelling Strategies

There are a number of strategies teachers use to help children with their spelling:

SYLLABIFICATION : breaking words into syllables. Each syllable will contain a vowel.

going go ing

remember re mem ber

yesterday yes ter day

MNEMONIC : Make up a mnemonic for your spelling word

Because Big elephants can always understand small elephants.

Could oh you lucky duck

Separate there is a rat in separate

WORDS WITHIN WORDS : How many words can you find inside your word?
country count try example exam ample

COMPOUND WORDS : Can you divide your word into two or more words e.g.
meanwhile mean while breakfast break fast homework home work

ANALOGY :Does your word have the same spelling pattern as another word?
'ight' (light, fright, sight).

SPELLING RULES

There are a number of spelling rules to help children to remember how to spell.

- i before e except after c
- 'q' is always followed by 'u'. Together they make the sound 'kw'. (queen)
- Soft 'c'- coming before 'e' (face) 'i' (cider) 'y' (fancy)
- Soft 'g' - coming before 'e' (judge) 'i' (ginger) 'y' (gypsy)
- drop the e and add ing (ride = riding)
- add es to words ending in s, ss, x or z to make them plural e.g. dress - dresses, mix- mixes.

Home/School Partnership

As we all know, pupil's progress is helped when home and school work together.
What can you do to help?

Encourage your child to read as much as possible

Ask your child what words they were spelling today

Provide opportunities for your child to write at home, e.g. shopping lists, thank you letters etc.

Encourage your child to have a go at writing words.

The technical bit

Phoneme: The definition of a phoneme is the smallest unit of sound within a word. They are taught to children when learning phonics, the study of sounds. For example, the word 'dog' consists of three phonemes (d-o-g)

Elkonin box: Elkonin boxes **build phonological awareness skills by segmenting words into individual sounds, or phonemes.** To use Elkonin boxes, a child listens to a word and moves a phonemes into a box for each sound or phoneme.

Reciprocal reading: Reciprocal reading is a **structured approach to teaching strategies (questioning, clarifying, summarising and predicting) that students can use to improve their reading comprehension.** Your child may call this SHORS strategies.

Diacritical Marking: A diacritical mark is a **symbol that tells a reader how to pronounce a letter.** Part of learning to speak and write a new language is becoming familiar with its diacritical marks. Diacritical marks can be squiggles, lines, or dots, and they can hover above a letter or be attached to it.



Single sounds/phonemes are marked with a dot under the sound



Joined phonemes are marked by underlining with a dark line



Split phonemes (formerly magic 'e') are marked with a joining loop

