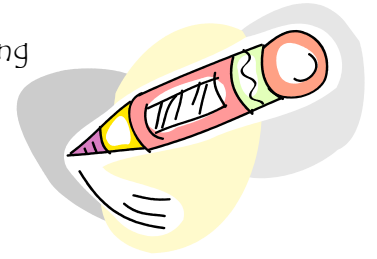


Spelling/Word Study

In an effort to best meet the specific needs of each child in my classroom, spelling may look different than it did in previous years. The approach is to guide your child and give them the tools to not only become a better speller, but to become a better reader and writer.



- Spelling will be called Word Study. In Word Study your child is taught to explore the sound, pattern and meaning relationships among words through various weekly assignments.
- Each child will have a word study notebook which I will provide. This will include the word or sound patterns s/he is working on for the week and the daily activities with the words.
- Each child has an envelope attached to the Word Study Notebook. Weekly word sort cards are to be kept in this envelope so they can travel between home and school on a daily basis.
- The words assigned to each child are specifically chosen to meet individual needs at developmentally appropriate stages. They are meant to help your child discover patterns within words and identify the patterns in unknown words.

Next week I will introduce the word sorts and Word Study process. On Mondays, your students will be introduced to their words by going on a "Word Walk". Throughout the week, I will continue to show them strategies that can be used for practice both at home and in school. They will be asked to study a little each night, keeping track of their work in their notebooks. On Friday, students will be expected to write their words in correct sorting groups *as well as* spell the words correctly without using their sorting cards. Students can earn 2 points per word: one point for correct spelling and one point for placing the word in the correct sorting group. While 12 words will be assigned to study each week, students will be tested on only 10 of them (my choice).

While practicing at home it is important to keep in mind:

*Spelling is not just memorizing words for a test.

*Successful spellers use a combination of recognizing word, sound, and meaningful patterns to identify what "looks right".

*Spelling is a process that involves 5 stages of development. Students within the same grade level can be at all different stages.

*Spelling is a tool that students will use their entire life.

*Word study helps students become better readers and writers as they continue to encounter and interpret new words each day.