

Spelling Information for Parents Grade 1 and 2

During this time of emergency remote learning, we know that you are trying your best to support your child with their schoolwork. We thought it might be beneficial to you as you do this if we provide some information about spelling for your child. It is hard to resist correcting spelling errors or telling them how to spell a word when they ask, but it is important for their development as a reader and writer that they work through most words spelling them the best they can. Why? Well literacy expert Matt Glover provides some excellent information on this topic.

Why Do We Encourage Invented Spelling

1. We do not expect perfection from the start. Children attempt so many things that are not perfect to begin with and we accept that and we begin simple and let some things go that as they become older we know will come with time. Spelling is no different. They will learn, but spelling is developmental and takes time.
2. Telling and correcting does not help children become better spellers. Children need to be taught how to spell and how words work. We are better to show them one strategy to use that will help with many words than to tell and correct many words.
3. Invented spelling lets us see what a child already knows about letter, sounds and spelling. When we see what they can do on their own then we can nudge them toward the next small thing they need to learn. We look at misspellings to see what they know and what they need to learn next.
4. We want to create students who are independent. By telling or correcting all of their spelling attempts, we decrease our children's willingness to take risks. Their strategy to solve words will be to look to another person rather than relying on strategies that can help them out.
5. If they will not take a risk to spell words they want, which may be a challenge because of their developmental spelling stage, their writing won't improve. We want them to use the best words in their writing, not stick to safe words that they know they can spell.

What Should We Do

- Do not have your child fix every word.
- When helping them to spell a word have your child, say it slowly and write the sounds they hear.
- You could find the word or a word that could help them spell the word they want in a book that they know or around the house.
- Have your child listen to the word and see if they can hear any words inside it that they know.
- Provide tools like an alphabet chart.
- Finally, tell your child to write it the best they can.

For more information for parents on literacy, topics check out Matt Glover's YouTube channel [Parent to Parent](#).