



Spelling- Top Tips

Spelling game for young students

SACAWAC

An elementary school teacher developed this method of helping with spelling and the kids really enjoy Sacawac.

Study
And
Cover
And
Write
And
Check

For example if your student has a list of spelling words for the week, read over them together and really focus on each word and look at it.

Get them to close their eyes and visualize the word in their head (might not want to at first, but once they 'get it' they will)

Next cover the words (either one at a time for younger kids or all at once for older) and ask the student to write the word(s) down, finally uncover the list and check how they have done. If they got it right, heap praise, if they got it wrong do SACAWAC again, for example. "You were nearly right, lets study the word again and see what the difference is, now cover it again and write it again "

By turning it into a game it becomes less of a chore

Try it out and see!

Spelling games for older students:

Word building game – break words down, for example in and to make into, spell and ing make spelling. Use flash cards.

Blending. Create flash cards, with common endings – ing, s, ies, es, ed, er. Shout a word out and see if your student can give it an ending, for example read (both, S,ing, er, would be correct)

Using a black board or dry eraser board are great tools to help a student spell.

11+, Metaphors and opposites, Word families, Etymology – origins of words



Reading – Top Tips

Non Readers – Multi-sensory

We have talked a lot about learning styles and when children learn to read they need to be able to see, hear and feel. Keep this in mind with younger students and don't expect them to get it, just from a book. Wooden letters both upper case and lower case are a great tool. – Ask your Location or Regional coordinator for learning materials for younger students.

Games, games, games

In order for a student to read proficiently they need to practice, practice, practice and to make this fun, you need to play games. Ask at the shelter/after school club what games they have or ask your Regional/Location Coordinator for some.

If you have a student that is 7+ and **not reading**:

You have to be able to use material that is age appropriate as they may feel embarrassed and reading a Barney book will only emphasize this.

Help your student to create a reading book of their own. Make a page at a time. Ask your student to write about himself or herself or something that they are interested in. Draw a picture or cut out photos from magazines etc. Then get your student to write about the picture or you write out a simple sentence and then get them to copy it. Once they have written the sentence get them to read it back.

Bingo – they have started to read. Every session create a new page for their book.

There are some great computer programs that help students to read, as well as tapes/cd's and internet sites.



Math – Top Tips

Always talk about Math in a positive way

- Regardless of how you felt about mathematics as a child or as an adult
- Never tell them math is too hard
- Always encourage your student to try their best and to talk about their mathematical thinking

Know what your student is studying in Math

- Students are learning more rigorous math in school, especially elementary school
- Be aware of the expectations of each grade level

Have high expectations for your student

- Expect your child to understand mathematics
- Encourage them and support them to succeed with math

Encourage your student to use technology in math wherever possible

- Computer games and web sites for practice fun and learning

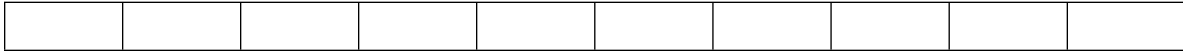
Calculators

- Use to explore patterns
- Use to CHECK mental math or pencil and paper practice

We hope these ideas help you to share the joy of mathematics with your student. Please let a member of School on Wheels staff know if you need specifics or want further information.



The number stick



Find a stick, piece of wood, old ruler or piece of paper and divide into 10 equal parts

This stick can be used for a multitude of math facts

Addition/subtraction 0-10

Fractions – One of the best tools to use to help your student ‘get’ fractions as they can physically hold the stick and recognize that it is 1 whole, sometimes this is much easier than pieces of pie/pizza visual

By placing numbers at either end you can use it for minus numbers and hundreds/tens/units



Number square

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



Multiplication and Division Number Square

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100



Tests - Top Tips

If your student is taking a test especially a state test (STAR), explain to them the reason why they take tests in school. Some tests are given to check what your student has learned so far in class. Others measure how well they're doing compared to other kids their age or in the same grade across the United States.

Many of these tests ask you to 'fill in the circle' in front of the right answer. Be sure to emphasize to your student to fill it in completely or it may not be counted by the test checker. Also remind them to read each answer choice before they mark anything. For example once choice might be 'all the above' If you mark the first right answer they may not see that they are all correct!

If your student says that they do not like tests, they are not alone. Many students don't. Let them know that tests are nothing to stress over.

Three important things to remind your student about how to do their best on a test:

1. Get a good night's sleep
2. Eat a good breakfast
3. Get to school on time

What Else can I Do?

Remind your student that no one test can measure what a great kid they are

Do some relaxation exercises with your student, like deep breathing or silent counting backward from 10. Suggest he or she can do them before a test to stay relaxed and focused

Remember to praise your student for good efforts on assignments and tests. Children who feel good about themselves do better on tests

Review together what your child has learned so far this year in reading, math. Social science and social studies. Go over lesson or chapter tests your child has brought. Then both of you make up questions and quiz each other

Advise your student to read all directions and questions carefully, and to answer the easiest questions first.

Remind your student to answer all the questions. Stress that's if he or she doesn't know the answer, it's ok to guess....it could be the right one! For tough multiple-choice questions suggest a process of elimination to rule out the obviously wrong answers and narrow the choices.

Tips to give your student about taking tests:

- Relax. Just do the best you can
- Your first choice is usually correct. Don't change an answer unless you have a good reason to do so
- Be aware of key words such as 'all' 'now' 'always' 'never' 'only' 'exactly'
- In multiple-choice questions the longest answer should be considered, since test writers want to be sure the correct answer is accurate.
- When two answers are opposites one of them is often correct
- Watch for negative words like 'not' 'no' 'never'
- Look for information in some questions. This information may help you answer other questions.



Stuck for something to do with your student? Check out this list of Upper Grade Activities

1. List the continents of the world
2. Make up three names for rock groups
3. Name as many kinds of windstorms as you can.
4. Take a number. Write it. Now make a face out of it.
5. Name as many gems or precious stones as you can.
6. Write the names of all the girls you know.
7. Name as many teachers at your school as you can.
8. List as many states as you can.
9. Write (a) an abbreviation (b) Roman Numeral (c) a trademark (d) a proper name (biographical) (e) a proper name (geographical)
10. How many countries and their capitals can you name?
11. How many baseball teams can you name?
12. Write down as many cartoon characters as you can
13. List as many kinds of flowers as you can.
14. Turn to your neighbor. One of you tell the other about an interesting experience you have had.
15. List all the things in the your bedroom
16. Write what toy would do if you saw an elephant in your school.
17. Name as many kinds of ice-cream as you can.
18. List five parts of the body above the neck that have three letters.
19. List one manufactured item for each letter of the alphabet.
20. List as many nouns in the room as you can.
21. List the mountain ranges in the U.S.
22. Write the twelve months of the year correctly. Stand up as you as you are finished.
23. Make a list of five things you do after school.
24. List one proper noun for each letter of the alphabet.
25. Write one kind of food beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

26. Name as many holidays as you can.
27. How far can you count and write down by 6's?
28. Name as many balls as you can that are used in sports games,
29. List as many U.S. presidents as you can.
30. List all the work tools you can think of.
31. List as many models of cars as you can.
32. Name all the colors you know.
33. How many parts of an auto can you list?
34. How many animals can you list that begin with vowels?
35. List as many kinds of trees as you can.

36. Name as many countries of the world as you can. List as many personal pronouns as you can.
37. List as many kinds of transportation as you can.
38. How many different kinds of languages can you name?
39. Write as many homonyms as you can. Example: Past-passed.
40. You have five children. Make up their five names.
41. Name as many things as you can that are made of cloth.
42. Name as many things as you can that you wear on your head.
43. Name as many movie stars as you can (not T.V.)
44. List all the musical instruments that begin with 't'.
45. Name as many TV game shows as you can.
46. Name as many politicians as you can.
47. Name as many breeds of dogs as you can.
48. Write the days of the week in order. Stand up when finished.
49. List all the kinds of sandwiches that you can.
50. Scramble five spelling words, trade with someone, and unscramble them.
51. List as many things as you can that make people the same.
52. List as many kinds of soup as you can.
53. List all the places you find sand.
54. List as many breakfast cereals as you can.



Some Benefits of Reading to Children

- ✓ The moments spent sharing books form a powerful bond between child and tutor that will last a lifetime.
- ✓ Sharing good books provides opportunities to transmit timeless and universal values in situations where children are very receptive and don't feel that they are being preached to.
- ✓ Spending time together is a way of giving of yourself. The message is "I have time for you because you are important. I respect you, care for you - therefore I read to you."
- ✓ Through shared literature children can talk to adults about what matters in their life, about issues ranging from fear of abandonment and death, to fantasies that lead to happy-ever-afters. Literature provides a means of navigating the realities of life and gives clues as to how to survive in an adult world.
- ✓ Familiar pages of a favorite book shared with a caring adult provide comfort to children, reassuring them about their own fears and place in this world.
- ✓ Bruno Bettelheim, noted child psychologist and author of Uses of Enchantment, believes that the two factors most important in giving a child the belief that he (she) can make a significant contribution to life are parents/teachers and good literature.



Do's and Don'ts of Reading to Children

DO's

- ✓ Start young!! Even the youngest children get comfort and security from the rhythmic sound of your reading voice. You will establish a habit early in their lives before they discover a lot of other distracting pastimes.
- ✓ Read often; establish a regular reading time
- ✓ Make a special reading space in your location and fill it with books
- ✓ Make sure you have a comfortable sitting arrangement so the adult won't get back ache and the child can participate by touching the pages, seeing the pictures.
- ✓ Encourage participation by letting the child say rhyming words; chant the repetitive refrains, read along with you, etc.
- ✓ Allow time for discussion (if the child is so inclined) but do not turn discussions into quizzes or prying interpretations from the child.
- ✓ Let the 'ham' in you come out. Work on your expressive reading, and learn to use character voices to add drama to the experience.
- ✓ Show your enthusiasm about the book, the author, the illustrator, the pictures, etc.

DON'TS

- Don't read too fast!! This is probably the most common mistake in reading to children.
- Don't interrupt the flow of the author's language by asking too many questions or adding explanations. If the child needs a lot of clarification to understand a book, it may be that the book is too difficult for that child.
- Don't read what you think the child 'ought' to hear.
- Don't read anything that you don't enjoy yourself. It is important that you like the story, the characters, the outcome, etc.