

# HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD WITH... SPELLING



## DOES SPELLING REALLY MATTER? AREN'T SOME PEOPLE JUST BORN TO BE POOR SPELLERS?

You may have heard that spelling doesn't really matter. After all, we all have spell-check, right? But did you know that you have to be able to spell at about a 5th grade reading level in order for spell check to be effective?

Spelling is important, and children are not destined to be poor spellers. All spelling can improve.

When thinking about spelling, it is important to remember this: spelling is about matching the sounds (phonemes) in our language, to the symbols (graphemes) that match those sounds.

## WHAT IS TAPPING SOUNDS?

Tapping your sounds means touching something each time you say a sound. For example, when I say cat, I can touch three blocks and say /c/-/a/-/t/. I can also just hold up a finger for each new sound. This helps students to see and understand how many sounds must be represented in a word.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I DO?

Top tip: When your child is spelling, have them do the following:

1. Say the word.
2. Tap the sounds in the word (If the word is wish, they'd say /w/-/i/-/sh/.)
3. Say the sounds as they spell.

This one simple tip can give you BIG payout when it comes to spelling.

Top tip for more advanced spellers: When your child is spelling, have them do the following:

1. Say the word.
2. Tap the syllables. (Ex: Operation would be op-er-a-tion.)
3. Draw a line for each syllable.
4. Say the sounds as they spell.