



Craigdhu Primary School



Spelling

STAGES OF SPELLING DEVELOPMENT

PRECOMMUNICATIVE

LR2BTN

SEMIPHONETIC

I LK DG
(I like dogs)

PHONETIC

I lik dagz
(I like dogs)

TRANSITIONAL

I liek dogz
(I like dogs)

CONVENTIONAL

I like dogs



THE CLASSROOM KEY



Spelling at Craigdhu

At Craigdhu Primary, our approach to the teaching of spelling is structured focusing on the 5 stage of spelling development. Our approach begins by developing children's phonemic awareness by teaching individual phoneme sounds e.g. s, a, t and joined phoneme sounds e.g. sh and blends e.g. bl. Children will then explore different representations of the same sound e.g. the long a sound: ai (rain), ay (play), a-e (bake). Children will also investigate spelling rules and build their knowledge of common/ tricky words.

The 5 Stages of Spelling Development

1. Preliminary Stage

- **Description:** Children use scribbles, letters, and numbers to represent words, but there is little understanding of letter-sound correspondence.
- **Example:** "RTQQL" for "dog."

2. Semi-phonetic Stage

- **Description:** Children begin to understand that letters represent sounds (phonics). They often use only one or two letters to represent a whole word, typically initial or final sounds.
- **Example:** "U" for "you," "BD" for "bed."

3. Phonetic Stage

- **Description:** Children use a letter or group of letters to represent every speech sound (phoneme) they hear in a word. While systematic, these spellings often do not follow conventional English rules.
- **Example:** "KOM" for "come," "DUN" for "done".

4. Transitional Stage

- **Description:** The speller moves from relying solely on sound (phonology) to using visual representations and understanding the structure of words. They start applying conventional spelling patterns.
- **Example:** "HIGHEKED" for "hiked," "EGUL" for "eagle".

5. Conventional Stage

- **Description:** The speller knows the English orthographic system, including basic rules, prefixes, suffixes, silent consonants, and irregular spellings. They recognise when a word "looks" wrong.
- **Example:** Correct spelling of most words, including complex ones.

How can you support your child at home?

Practising spelling doesn't have to be time consuming or require expensive resources. Below are some examples of games you can play with your child, anywhere, to support their spelling:

- **Spelling Tennis:** Throw a ball to each other spelling the word by saying alternative letters until the whole word is spelled. E.g. sheep = s **h** e **e** p.
- **Hangman:** Practise spelling common/ tricky words by playing hangman
- **Kim's Game:** Spelling words are written on cards and laid out on the table. Ask your child to study the words. Then ask them to look away and remove *one* of the cards. Ask your child to turn back, look at the remaining cards and give them 30 seconds to write down the missing word. If they are correct, they win a point, but only if it is spelt correctly!
- **Find the Word:** Give your child a highlighter and a piece of text, for example a newspaper or advert. Write a few common words on a piece of paper and ask your child to highlight as many as they can find.
This activity can also be used to highlight a spelling pattern e.g. all words with the long a sound: ai, ay, a-e
- **Look Say Cover Write Check:** This is a classic spelling strategy that helps your child to memories spellings by both sound and visual appearance.
 1. Study a word in its correct spelling and say it aloud
 2. Cover it up
 3. Write it themselves as they remember it
 4. Check their spelling against the original.

Useful Websites

- **Sumdog-** https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in
All pupils have a login to Sumdog, this is a useful website as it tailors questions to support and challenge at an appropriate level.
- **Doorway online-** <https://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/literacy/>
- **Topmarks-** <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/words-and-spelling>
- **Spelling Training-** <https://www.spellingtraining.com/>
- **BBC Bitesize-** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z8rdtfr>

Video explanations

There are a number of videos available on the school website and seesaw demonstrating approaches to support your child. These can be found at <https://www.craigdhu.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/parents-info/supporting-learning-at-craigdhu/>

Literacy Dictionary

We have created a literacy dictionary to define commonly used terms at Craigdhu. This can be found on seesaw and on the school website at <https://www.craigdhu.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/parents-info/supporting-learning-at-craigdhu/>

A more comprehensive list of grammar and literacy terms and their definitions can be accessed via: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/at-school/education-glossary/grammar-literacy-glossary-a-c/>