

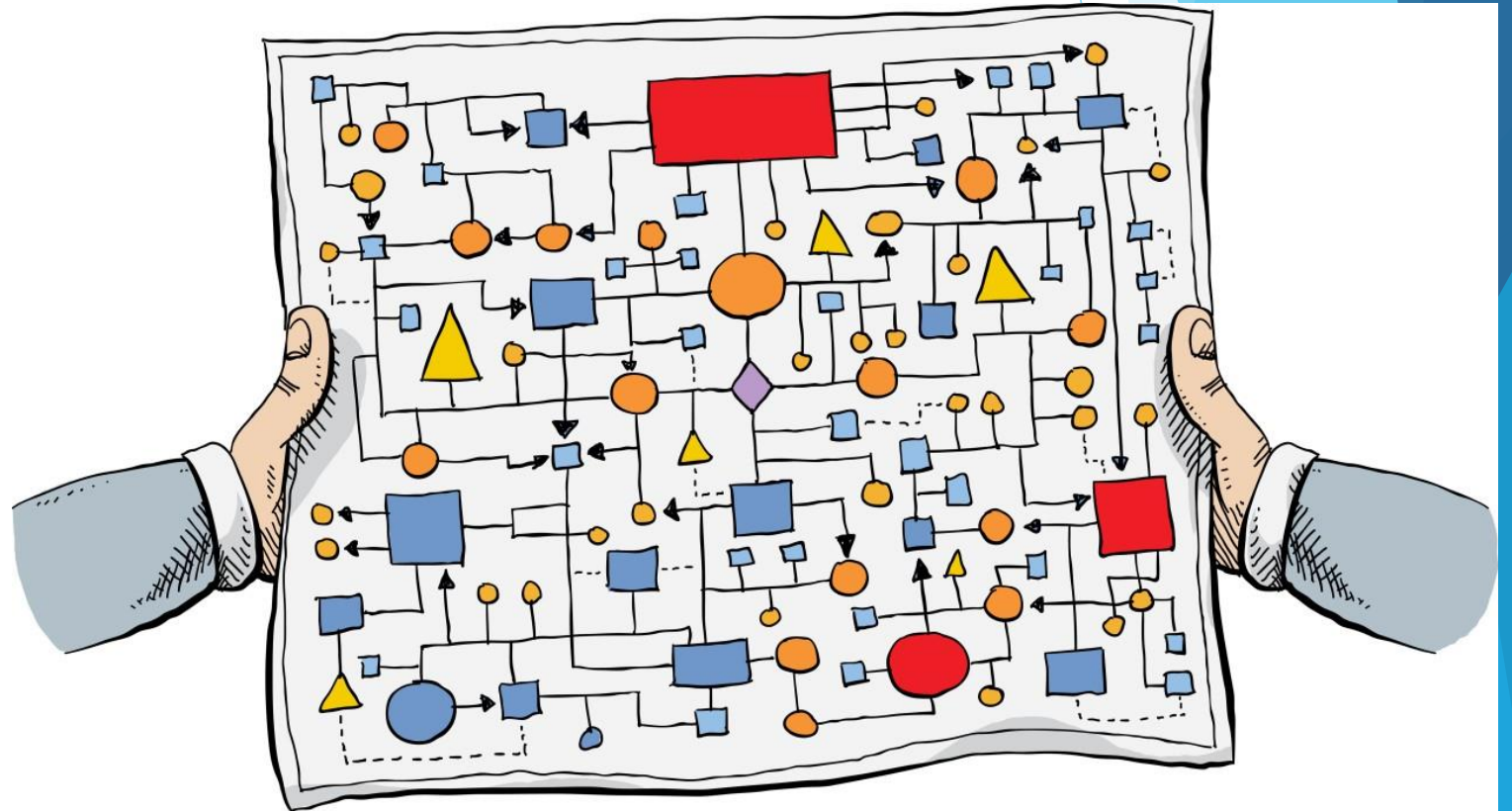
Parents' writing workshop

Supporting children with their writing

March 2025

The Writing Process

- ▶ Complex - lots to think about:
- ▶ Purpose/audience
- ▶ Content/ideas
- ▶ Vocabulary
- ▶ Spelling
- ▶ Grammar
- ▶ Punctuation
- ▶ Handwriting
- ▶ Layout/presentation



Opportunities to write at home

Real purposes

- ▶ Shopping list
- ▶ Post card
- ▶ Notes to family members
- ▶ Greetings cards

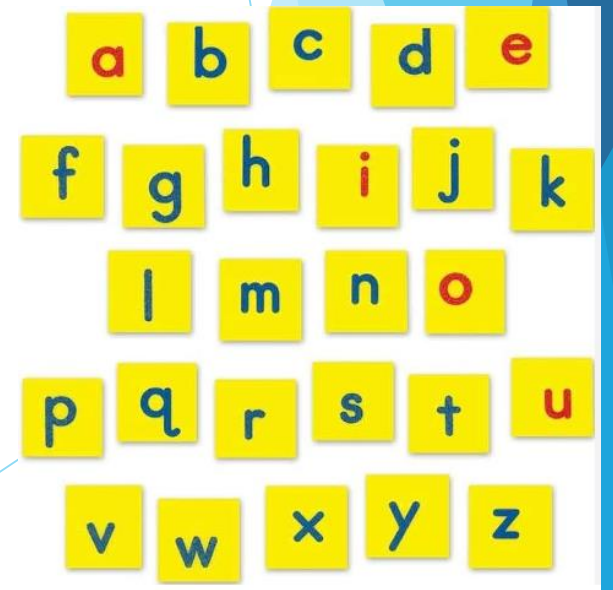


Practising spelling

- ▶ Make it fun
- ▶ Small bursts
- ▶ Repetitive

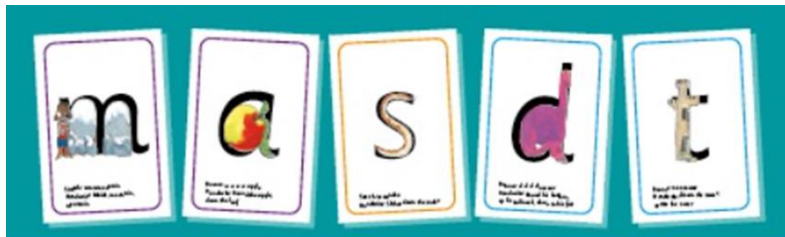
- ▶ Magnetic letters
- ▶ Foam letters in the bath
- ▶ Jelly letters
- ▶ Letter tiles

a b c d e f g h i j k
l m n o p q r s t u
v w x y z a e l o u
ch sh th wh ph
n b ck ng ff ss ll



Read, Write Inc.

- ▶ Daily Practise
- ▶ Rhymes to help remember



at	mad
sad	dad
sat	mat



Complex Speed Sounds

Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		j	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				g							
	ch				ge							
					dge							

Vowel sounds

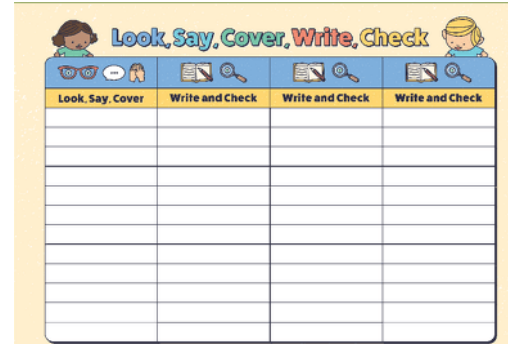
a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				a-e	y	i-e	o-e
					ai	ea	ie	oa
						e	i	o
							y	

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
u-e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			a							
			au							

Click to enlarge

Spelling ideas

- ▶ Look, say, cover, write, check
- ▶ Post it note spellings around the room/up the stairs
- ▶ Identify syllables - every syllable has a vowel or y
- ▶ Rhymes - cake, bake, lake
- ▶ Mnemonics e.g. because - big elephants can add up sums easily
- ▶ Spelling rules e.g. i before e except after c - brief, receive
- ▶ Look for words in words e.g. what has hat, when has hen
- ▶ Compound words e.g. homework - home-work
- ▶ Tower blocks - looking at word shapes - tall and small letters, ascenders and descenders
- ▶ Use colour for tricky parts
- ▶ Use letter names from year 2 when spelling and saying letters out loud



RHYMING WORDS

- 1) Cat, bat, rat, hat.
- 2) Man, ran, can, tan.
- 3) Cat, bat, rat, hat.
- 4) Bed, red, led, fed.
- 5) Tall, call, ball, fall.
- 6) Smell, tell, well,



Compound words

 class	+	 mate	=	 classmate
 lip	+	 stick	=	 lipstick
 ear	+	 phones	=	 earphones
 fish	+	 bowl	=	 fishbowl
 tooth	+	 brush	=	 toothbrush

Handwriting

- ▶ Reception - printed letters - pre-cursive when ready
- ▶ Year 1 - pre-cursive - with whooshes and flicks - all letters start from the line
- ▶ Year 2 - joining when ready - all words start from the line
- ▶ Years 3 to 6 - joining

- ▶ Muscle memory
- ▶ Correct at an early age before embedded

Aa Bb Cc Dd

Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm

Nn Oo Pp Qq

Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz

Handwriting

- ▶ Warm up the fingers
- ▶ Pencil grip - pick and flick
 - ▶ - tripod grip
 - ▶ -pencil grips
- ▶ Top joins - o, r, w, v
- ▶ Letter families e.g. c, a, d, g, q



Other fine motor activities to develop hand and finger muscles to support drawing/writing

- ▶ Folding paper
- ▶ Cutting
- ▶ Lego
- ▶ Tracing
- ▶ Playdough/putty
- ▶ Peg boards
- ▶ Bead threading
- ▶ Clothes pegs
- ▶ Tweezer games



Fun ways to practise handwriting and spelling together

Write in:

- ▶ Air
- ▶ Sand
- ▶ Lentils
- ▶ Cornflower gloop
- ▶ Shaving Foam
- ▶ Chalk board/whiteboard
- ▶ Chalk - outside
- ▶ Water pistols/washing up liquid bottles
- ▶ Colours, gel, glitter, smelly pens

Non permanent - can rub out mistakes



Grammar and Punctuation

- ▶ Progression through the school
- ▶ Regular use of the vocabulary

nouns table, apple, Jamie, London	verbs running, sleeping, painting, breathing	adjectives blue, enormous, hard, sensible	suffixes -ness, -er, -ful, -ly, -est
prefixes un-, re-, dis-	joining words/conjunctions and, but, so, because, since, until	statement I have lost my keys.	question Did you have a nice holiday?
exclamation Stop him!	command Pass me the vegetables please.	present tense We are eating ice cream.	past tense We went to the cinema.
subordination when, if, that, because	co-ordination or, and, but, yet, so	expanded noun phrase A delicious bowl of ice cream.	

Punctuation

Full Stop

This Punctuation mark is used to indicate the end of a sentence.



Semicolon

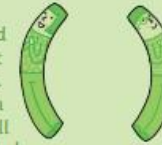
Semicolons are used to separate two main clauses that are closely related to each other, but could stand on their own as sentences.

I have a big test tomorrow; I can't go out tonight.



Brackets

Round brackets are mainly used to separate information that isn't essential to the sentence. If you remove the section in brackets the sentence will still make sense. This is called parenthesis.



Mount Everest (8,848m) is the highest mountain in the world.

Question mark

This punctuation mark is used to indicate that a question is being asked.

Have you seen the film?



Exclamation mark

The main use of the exclamation mark is to end an interjection or exclamation and indicate strong feelings.

Wow! Hello!



Inverted commas

Inverted commas are used to mark the beginning and end of direct speech.

"What time will he arrive?" Mary asked.



Apostrophe

Apostrophes have two main uses: showing possession and showing omission.



Possession - Here the apostrophe indicates that a thing or a person belongs or relates to someone or something.

E.g. Ben's party.

Omission - Here the apostrophe is used to show that letters or numbers have been omitted.

*I'm (short for I am)
He'll (short for he will)*

Colon

Colons have two main uses:

- To separate two clauses where the second clause defines or explains the first.

E.g. It wasn't easy to begin with: I had to find the right house.

- To introduce a list.

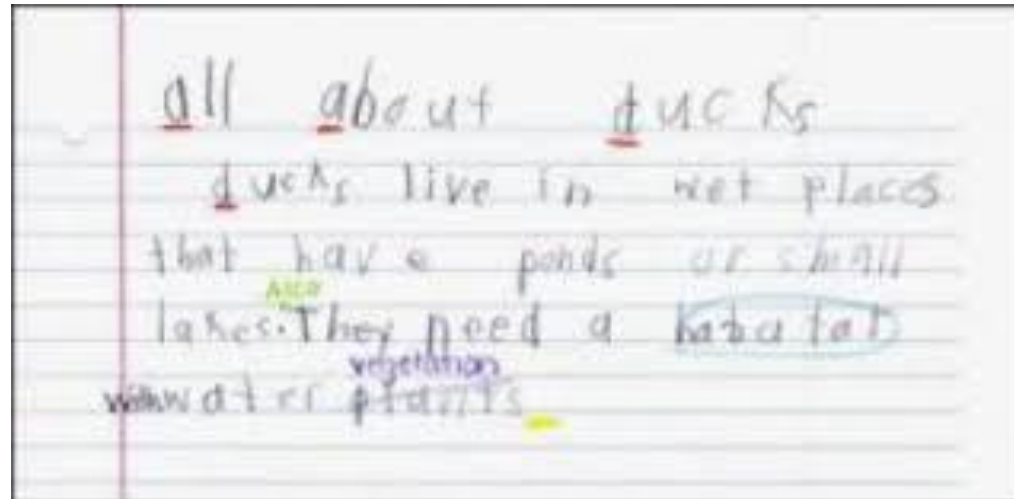
At the shop, I need to buy a few items: carrots, chicken, potatoes and fruit juice.



Adult support



- ▶ Talk through ideas
- ▶ Give key spellings/words
- ▶ Let the children have a go at using their sounds/phonics
- ▶ Re-read it with the children and help them to spot missing words, missing punctuation



Alternate methods of recording



- ▶ Adult scribe - write down children's ideas for them sometimes - focus on their ideas, not the recording
 - ▶ Voice to text on a laptop, phone or ipad/tablet
 - ▶ Using a laptop to type their writing - need to be proficient in typing
- BBC dancemat or doorway online typing

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3c6tfr>

<https://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/typing/>

