

Spelling and Writing

- Accurate spelling makes writing easier to read, and it is a courtesy to the reader.
- Your child will care about spelling if he or she writes about ideas that really matter to him or her.
- Your child will care about spelling if he or she writes for an audience and/or a reason he or she really cares about.
- As your child learns a range of spelling strategies and concepts, there will be fewer errors in early drafts.
- By examining your child's writing, teachers can determine what your child knows and needs to learn about spelling.
- Spelling becomes a focus at the end of the writing process, during editing and proofreading.

Spelling and Reading

- Spelling and reading go hand in hand.
- As your child is exposed to new words through reading, many of these words will become part of his or her spelling vocabulary.
- As your child learns about the structure of words through spelling, this knowledge can help with the reading of words.
- Understanding "how words work" is essential for both reading and spelling.

Let's talk about ...

Spelling Primary–8



The Atlantic Canada English language arts curriculum is shaped by a vision of enabling and encouraging students to become reflective, articulate, literate individuals who use language successfully for learning and communicating in personal and public contexts.



This pamphlet is part of a series to inform parents about the Nova Scotia Department of Education Public School Program. For more information, contact your child's teacher.

Let's talk about ... Spelling Primary–8

Spelling is important. Accuracy in spelling is not only necessary for effective communication, it is also a factor in how people are viewed in everyday life. Spelling is a part of the writing process and is closely linked to reading and speaking. Teachers and the family can support the student's spelling development by encouraging writing for a variety of purposes and by teaching the student to practise effective spelling strategies and patterns to unfamiliar words.

Your child needs to

- write for a variety of purposes
- understand that accurate spelling helps to convey a clear message
- use what he or she learns through reading and writing in his or her spelling
- use resources such as computer spell checks, dictionaries, classroom charts, and personal spelling lists to confirm spellings
- learn irregular words to enhance fluency in writing, such as again, was, llama, and Wednesday
- apply proofreading strategies, such as reading backwards word for word when looking for spelling errors in written work
- use strategies for spelling, such as spelling words out loud and breaking words into syllables
- be aware of the sound, structure, and meaning patterns in words

Teachers need to

- explain to your child and your family where spelling fits in the writing process
- explain how spelling is addressed throughout the day in your child's classroom
- use a variety of sources to assess your child's progress in spelling, such as everyday writing that has not been corrected, writing that your child has proofread, and conversations with your child about his or her spelling attempts
- provide information about your child's spelling growth and what you can expect to see as your child develops as a speller
- suggest how you can support your child's spelling development
- help your child to use a variety of spelling strategies
- help your child to apply common spelling patterns, such as rules for forming plurals (bus–buses), possessives (the girl's coat), and contractions (don't)

Your family needs to

- communicate with your child's teacher about how you can support your child's spelling development
- value spoken and written words in the home and discuss interesting uses of language in everyday life
- encourage your child to use a variety of strategies and resources to spell words
- understand that both correct and incorrect spelling attempts provide important information about your child's grasp of the spelling system
- model the use of spelling taking into consideration the audience and the purpose (For example, short forms may be used in shopping lists, but not in formal writing such as a thank-you note.)

let's talk about ...