

## A Note About Spelling and the Spelling Pattern Page

Each week your child will have a spelling list to study and a spelling pattern assignment to do as part of their homework. The pattern page is one of the most important spelling assignments I give to help children become better spellers.

### How it Works

On the first day of the week I give the children a pretest of the words they are to learn for the week. They are given a set of 20 words out of a list of 60 (this is how I allow for diversity of spelling abilities). Immediately afterwards the children are given the list of words in order to self-correct their own pretest. In this manner they discover which words on the list they need to focus on in order to learn to spell them all correctly. They have a practice routine that they complete for each of the words missed. This is most often done in the classroom and completed on the pretest page. Students then take both the pretest and the class list of spelling words home. From the list of missed words they choose a minimum of 5 to use on the Spelling Patterns page (if they missed less than 5 then they must choose any other words from their set - if they missed more, I encourage them to do more). They write these words in the left hand column labeled "A Word from My Pretest." For each of these words they find two more words that, together with the first word, illustrate a spelling pattern of 2 or more letters common to each of the words in the row. These words are put in the second and third columns and must also be spelled correctly (no names here). A good place for children to find these words is in a dictionary or a rhyming dictionary. In the last column students write a phrase describing the spelling pattern that is shown with all three words. On the next page is an example of a completed Spelling Pattern Page.

All of the students are taught how to do this and will have practiced it in the classroom at least once at the first of the year. As with the other homework, it is due no later than Friday morning (although I prefer that it be turned in earlier in the week).

Students should also be given a practice test of their entire set of words one or more times during the week prior to the final spelling test on Friday. If you find that your child's learning style requires additional ways to practice the words, I have a list of some other suggested study methods as well.

All of the spelling lists for the school year are linked from our class webpage to help your child study in the event that the list becomes lost or is not brought home in a timely manner. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Russ

