Cheshire Public Schools
Spelling Program

Practice Strategies
This booklet suggests more than twenty different ideas for practicing spelling words. We suggest that students write, spell, and pronounce the words slowly, repeatedly, and in a manner that fits their own learning style. Sometimes, dividing a new word into syllables, talking about why they misspelled it, or reviewing the pattern helps improve spelling. At other times repetition, rhyming, or creating funny or clever reminders helps us learn to spell a hard word.

Different strategies are useful for different students, grade levels, and word lists. It is not necessary to use all of the strategies with every child or word list. At times, the teacher may assign one or two spelling tasks to students. At other times, the students will practice their words using a strategy that seem to work best for them. Of course, alternative techniques are encouraged and appropriate. We invite children and their families to choose the strategies that seem to be a good fit for various learning styles, interests, word lists, or the need for variety. The main purpose of home practice is to provide time for sufficient repetition and to support pattern-based spelling memorization and application.

Some of the pages in this handbook include a link to an education web page. If you have internet access at home and allow your child to work on the computer with your supervision, you may find that these sites provide an interesting way to practice the words on days when you are looking for something fun or an interesting change. These on-line resources are provided free of charge by credible education organizations.

What works best to learn correct spelling is reading, writing, and holding ourselves accountable for correcting our mistakes. Please help your child spend 5-10 minutes each night, for 3-4 nights each week, practicing misspelled words. On the evening of Day 4 parents are asked to sign their child’s spelling list indicating that their child practiced their words for 20-30 minutes that week. Send it back to school at the end of each week.

On the morning of Day 5 each student will give the teacher his or her signed spelling practice list. Students will also complete a “post test” to demonstrate their learning.
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 1: Learning from My Mistakes

Directions: For tonight’s homework, find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest:

1. Write each of them on a piece of paper.
2. Use a highlighting pen to mark the letters that you confused in each word.
3. Write the correct spelling of the word again, but this time, make each confusing letter TWICE the size as the letters you spelled correctly.
4. Then, spell the word out loud to yourself. Be sure to slow down when you get to the confusing letters and say them LOUDER.

Spelling Practice Strategy Number 2: Spellamadoodle

Directions: Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest, and then follow the steps below:

1. Make a design using your spelling words written end-to-end.
2. Each spelling word must be written at least three times and must be spelled correctly.
3. Try to be as creative as you can be with the designs. Other examples include a sun, candle, house, tree, etc.
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 3: Classification

Directions:
1. Write each of the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest on an index card or small piece of paper (one word per index card or piece of paper).
2. Look at your list of words and determine a way to classify them. Examples include: parts of speech, beginning or ending sounds, words with prefixes and/or suffixes, number of syllables, letter patterns, number of vowels, etc. You may have more than two columns per chart. Example: one syllable words, two syllable words, three syllable words.
3. On a separate piece of paper, make and label a chart to record your classification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things you eat</th>
<th>Things you don’t eat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pizza</td>
<td>energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chocolate</td>
<td>muscles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chives</td>
<td>sky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 4: Pyramid Power

Directions:

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.
2. Choose the word you find easiest to spell. Write this word once on top and in the center of a piece of paper.
3. Choose the word you find next easiest to spell and write that word twice under the first word. Remember to center it on the paper.
4. Choose the word you find to be more difficult than the first two and write that word three times below the words above.
5. Continue this pattern until you have used all of your misspelled words.

walk
sweet sweet
mitten mitten mitten
bicycle bicycle bicycle bicycle bicycle
cymbals cymbals cymbals cymbals cymbals cymbals
Directions

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

2. Use a small paintbrush and colorful paints to paint your words.

3. Paint each word 5 times. The words can be arranged any way you would like on the paper.
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 6: Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

**Directions:**
1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

2. Make a table like the one pictured below on a sheet of white paper.

3. Write each of your words in the left column.

4. Begin with the first word in the left column and complete the following steps
   - **Look** at the word.
   - **Say** the word (say it, spell it, say it again)
   - **Cover** the left column.
   - **Write** word from your memory.
   - **Check** the spelling by uncovering the left column.

5. If you misspell a word, repeat the each step again until you spell the word correctly.

6. Repeat the steps above for each word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Look</th>
<th>Write</th>
<th>Check</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>muscle</td>
<td>muscle</td>
<td>☺</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bustle</td>
<td>bustle</td>
<td>X ☺</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 7: Type ‘Em

Directions:

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.
2. Use a computer word processing program, such as Microsoft Word, to type your spelling words.
3. Type each word five (5) times. You may use different fonts, different sizes and different colors for your words.

Sketch sketch sketch sketch sketch

Type type TYPE type type
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 8: Ransom Words

Directions:

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

2. Look through magazines and newspapers to find the letters in your words.

3. Glue the letters on a piece of paper to make your spelling words.

4. Each word should be spelled at least three (3) times.
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 9: Rainbow Words

Directions:

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

2. Write each word in pencil.

3. Trace each word three times with a different color crayon or marker. Make each word look like a “rainbow”!

![Example of rainbow words: hot bat]
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 10: Staircase Spelling

Directions:

1. Find the spelling words you misspelled on this week’s pretest. Lined paper or graph paper can be used to complete this activity. If you choose to use graph paper, write only one letter in each square.

2. Beginning with the first word:
   - Write the first letter of the word.
   - On the line or squares below, write the first two letters.
   - On the line or squares below, write the first three letters.
   - Continue to follow this pattern until you have written the entire word.

3. Repeat with each of your misspelled words.

Example 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>s</th>
<th>st</th>
<th>sta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>st</td>
<td>sta</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sta</td>
<td>stair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 2:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>l</th>
<th>la</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>lar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>larg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 11: Trace Aroun ds

Directions:
1. Find the spelling words you misspelled on this week’s pretest. Graph paper can be used to complete this activity. If you choose to use graph paper, tall letters (such as t or h) and hangers (such as g and y) should take up two squares.
2. Choose a word to begin the activity and write this word neatly on the paper.
3. Using a colored pencil, crayon, pen or marker, draw an outline around the word following the shape of the letters.
4. Close your eyes and try to remember the shape of the word.
5. Now try to write the word.

1. trace
2. trace
3. trace
4. trace
Directions:

1. Find the spelling words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.
2. Choose a word to begin the activity.
3. Write this word over and over again to make the shape of the first letter in the word.
4. Repeat with the remainder of your words.
Directions:

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

2. Make a collage with your words. Each word must appear in the collage at least 5 times. You may use crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc to design your collage.
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 14: Word Pictures

Directions:

To complete this activity you will need a piece of plain white paper, a simple coloring book page, pencil or colored pencils, and the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

1. Place the plain white paper on top of the coloring page.
2. Write your spelling words along the black lines that can be seen through the paper. The words will need to be repeated several times. Remember to use all of your words.

Sources for free coloring pages:
http://www.coloring.ws/coloring.html
http://www.dltk-kids.com/coloring.htm
http://thecoloringspot.com/
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 15: Roll the Dice

Directions:
1. To complete this activity, you will need a blank sheet of paper, a die (two if you have more than 6 words), a pencil and the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.
2. Make a chart like the one below. The number of columns depends on the number of words you have. You should play this game with at least 6 words. If you don’t have six misspelled words, choose a few others from this week’s list. There should be 10 rows in each chart.
3. Roll the die and then find the column with that number. Write the word that corresponds with that number. For example, you roll a 4 and the word for Column 4 is tomato. You write tomato in the row under Column 4. The first word written 10 times is the “winner”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3**</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chart</td>
<td>dice</td>
<td>fun</td>
<td>tomato</td>
<td>pencil</td>
<td>winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chart</td>
<td>dice</td>
<td>fun</td>
<td>tomato</td>
<td>pencil</td>
<td>winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chart</td>
<td>dice</td>
<td>fun</td>
<td>tomato</td>
<td>pencil</td>
<td>winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fun</td>
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<td>fun</td>
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<tr>
<td>fun</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spelling Practice Strategy Number 15: Roll the Dice
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 16: Match ‘Em

Directions:
1. Find the word’s you misspelled on this week’s pretest.
2. Write each word on two different index cards.
3. Lay out all of the cards in rows (like Memory).
4. Flip over two cards at a time and try to make a match.
5. The game ends when all of the words have found their match.

A MATCH!!!

swimming
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 17: Hidden Words

Directions:

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

2. Draw and color a picture on a piece of paper.

3. Write your spelling words 5 times each in the picture, but try to hide them.

4. Ask a parent, sibling or friend to try and find the words.
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 18: Disappearing and Reappearing Words

Directions:
1. Find the words that you misspelled on this week’s pretest.
2. Write the word once.
3. Write the word a second time, but do not write the first letter.
4. Write the word a third time, but do not write the first two letters.
5. Continue with the pattern until the whole word disappears.
6. Make the word reappear by repeating the whole process backwards.

Disappearing Words
words
__ords
__ rds
__ ds
__ s
____

Reappearing Words
____ s
____ ds
__ rds
__ ords
words
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 19: Color Words

Directions:

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

2. Write each word five times, but write the vowels in one color and the consonants in another color.

1. color  2. consonant  3. vowel
   color    consonant    vowel
   color    consonant    vowel
   color    consonant    vowel
   color    consonant    vowel
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 20: Roll the Colors

Directions:
1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s pretest.

2. You will need a die, different colored markers or colored pencils, and lined paper to complete this activity.

3. Roll the die to see how many different colors you must write your words with. Example: You roll a 4, you must write the word four times in four different colors.

4. Repeat with all of your words.

I rolled a 4!!


different
different
different
different

different
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 21: Parts of Speech

Directions:

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s spelling pre-test.

2. Make a chart similar to the one below.

3. Categorize your words by parts of speech. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Verbs</th>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Adverbs</th>
<th>Prepositions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>throat</td>
<td>scratch</td>
<td>beautiful</td>
<td>quickly</td>
<td>behind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stretch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>against</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 22: Cursive Words

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s spelling pre-test.

2. Write each misspelled word 3 times each in your best cursive writing.
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 23: Print ‘Em

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s spelling pre-test.

2. Write the words three times each in your best handwriting on lined paper.

   1. write    write    write
   2. neatly    neatly    neatly
   3. three    three    three
1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s spelling pre-test.

2. Follow the steps below for each misspelled word:

   - Write the word once.
   - Write the word a second time divided into syllables.
   - Write the word again.

1. remember  re-mem-ber remember

2. student  stu-dent student

3. enjoyment  en-joy-ment enjoyment

For more practice dividing words into syllables, visit the Syllables Factory
http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/spelling/soundandspell/syllables/game.shtml
The spelling words in each of your lists are placed together because they follow certain spelling rules. Your job is to determine what rule or rules apply to this week’s spelling words.

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s spelling pre-test.

2. Classify your words according to the spelling rule that applies to each word or group of words.

3. Label each group with the spelling rule in your own words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words that end with two letters that are the same</th>
<th>Words that have prefixes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| spell  
tell  
fizz  
sniff | unable  
retell  
reread |
1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s spelling pre-test.

2. Follow the steps below for each misspelled word:
   - Write the word once.
   - Write the word using the phonetic spelling (write it how it sounds). You may use a dictionary, if necessary.
   - Write the word again.

   1. easy  ee-zee  easy
   2. topic  top-ik  topic
   3. special  spech-uhl  special
Spelling Practice Strategy Number 27: Words around the World

1. Find the words you misspelled on this week’s spelling pre-test.

2. Write the words you misspelled correctly down the left-hand side of the paper.

3. Use a dictionary to find the language of origin for each word. In other words, what language did this word come from?

4. Write the language of origin in a second column next to word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Language of origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. father</td>
<td>Greek word pater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. globe</td>
<td>Latin word <em>globus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. prepare</td>
<td>Latin word praepareare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The websites listed below will allow you to input your own spelling words:

Look-Cover-Write and Check
http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/lookcover/lookcover.html
Click on the pre-typed words to delete and then type your words.

The websites listed below will help you to practice spelling in general:

The Suffix/Prefix Machine

Spellits
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/spellits/index.shtml

Sandcastle Quiz
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/sandcastle/flash/game.shtml

Star Words – High Frequency Word Practice
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/hfwords/index.shtml

Fish “Em Up – Adding endings