What Research Says About Spelling Instruction

Presented By
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Author of Spelling Power and Writing Power
What Research Says about Spelling Instruction

Introduction

Spelling Must Be Taught

Spelling Most Researched Subject

Elements of Successful Spelling Program
Spelling Must be Taught

Poor spelling gives negative impression

Very Few are natural born spellers

Spell Checkers do not eliminate need
Ode to the Spell Czecher

Author Unknown

I have a spelling checker. It came with my PC.
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks aye can knot see.

Eye ran this poem threw it. Your sure real glad two no.
Its very polished in its weigh, My checker tolled me sew.
A checker is a blessing. It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl stiles two reed, And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays comes posed up on my screen eye trussed too bee a joule.
The checker pours o’er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.

Bee fore a veiling checkers hour spelling mite decline,
And if were laks oar have a laps,
We wood bee maid too wine.

Butt now bee cause my spelling is checked with such grate flare,
There are know faults with in my cite,
Of none eye am a wear.

Now spelling does not phase me, it does knot bring a tier.
My pay purrs awl due glad den
With wrapped words fare as hear.

To rite with care is quite a feet of witch won should be proud,
And wee mussed dew the best wee can,
Sew flaws are knot aloud.

Sow ewe can sea why aye dew prays such soft wear four pea seas,
And why eye brake in two averse
Buy righting want too please.
There has been dissatisfaction with spelling since 1300’s

The most effective approaches hotly debated just as long

Webster’s Blue-Backed Speller
  First to teach standardized spellings
  Learn hard words to stretch mind
  Master before end of grade eight

Current Approaches
  Experiential approach
  Phonics and rule driven approach
  High frequency word lists

Lack of application of research is current concern

Curriculum Developers

Classroom Practices
Spelling Instructional Objectives

The student will understand the importance of accurate spelling as an aid to his reader’s understanding of what he has written. He will appreciate accurate spelling as a common courtesy to his reader.

The student will be able to accurately spell the 5,000 most frequently used American English words.

The student will be able to accurately spell the words he uses on a regular basis.

The student will learn the most effective way to study a word, so that he can continue to build his spelling vocabulary throughout his lifetime.

The student will understand and apply spelling rules and phonetic principles when attempting to spell unfamiliar words.

The student will establish the habit of effectively using spelling resources, such as the dictionary.

The student will establish the habit of using effective proofreading skills on all writing he intends others to read.
3 Essential Elements of Successful Spelling Programs

Experience with Words

Teach Spelling Skills

- Phonetic principles
- Spelling rules
- Related skills

Mastery of a Core Vocabulary
Creativity Flows with Mastery of Basic Skills

To be able to spell with confidence eases the task of putting thoughts on paper. This confidence frees the writer to concentrate more fully on organizing his ideas, thus increasing his capacity for self-expression.
Phonetic Principles and Spelling Rules must be Taught

Phonetic principles need regular reviewing

Phonics for reading and spelling are different
Aprox. 44 basic sounds and 250 spellings
Vowel Sounds are most unstable
Silent letters and Unusual Sounds

Spelling rules which should be taught

Some rules have more exceptions than applications
Research has found there are about 47 rules
Homophones & Homographs

Other skills essential to accurate spelling

Grammar Related Rules
Proofreading
Dictionary Use
Phonic Analysis of 17,310 Words

49% Regular Sound-Symbol Relationship*
(can, cane, jar, jaw)

37% Structural Derivatives*
(use, sues, useful, misuse)

11% Contextual Spellings
(homonyms: sail, sale)

3% Nonstandard Spellings

*words having at least one part which followed these principles were counted in the total

Mastery of a Core Vocabulary Required for Fluency

Core Spelling Needs are Predictable

4 - 5000 words 97% of time
Adult and children’s vocabulary similar
Above core spelling needs are very individual

What to look for in word lists?

Grade placement vs. high frequency
Reading lists vs. writing lists
Age of lists a factor

What is a flow-word list?

Individualized
Self-Pacing
Built In Review
# Frequency of Word Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Words</th>
<th>Percent of Use</th>
<th>Percent Gain in use per thousand words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>60%</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4000</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child vs Adults Needs

- 2,000 words most frequently used by children
- 4,000 words most frequently used by adults

- 1,000 exclusive to children as high frequency
- 1,000 common to adults and children
- 3,000 exclusive to adults as high frequency

5,000 Words, Divided into 47 “rule” groups + 6 levels of builtin Review = Spelling Power List
Average Person Uses Approximately 10,000 Words on a regular basis.

Core of 4,000 to 5,000 words used in 95-97% of Writing

The difference between the core vocabulary equals 2 to 5% of words used.

English Words
Mastery of a Core Vocabulary Required for Fluency

Core Spelling Needs are Predictable

Use 4 - 5000 words 97% of time
Adult and children’s vocabulary similar
Above core spelling needs usage is very individual

What to Look for in Word Lists?

High frequency vs. Grade placement
Writing lists vs. Reading lists
Age of lists a factor

What is a Flow-word List?

Individualized
Self-Pacing
Built In Review
10 Keys To Effective Instruction

1. Appropriate Placement
2. Individualized Pace & Progress
3. Teaching Subject Specific Skills
   Tool Subjects vs. Cultural Subjects
4. Multi-Sensory Approach
5. Encourage Self-Correction
6. Experience Centered Curriculum
   Provide Purpose to Lessons and Assignments
   Base Grammar & Usage Lessons on Student Writing Needs
   Test-study-test for Spelling with students Above Eight
7. Consistency In Approach and Application
8. Inductive & Deductive Approaches
   Deductive teaching is telling
   Inductive teaching guides student to discovery
9. Repeated, Spaced Review
10. Student Motivation
Multi-Sensory Teaching

Visual

Auditory

Tactile

Kinesthetic

Olfactory

Learning Style Theory vs. Modality
10 Ways To Motivate Students

1. Develop interest in subject (e.g. words)
2. Build trust in approach
3. Limit study to students’ needs
4. Arrange for opportunity for success
5. Teach definite & efficient study methods
6. Provide knowledge of results
7. Emphasize individual progress
8. Exhibit positive teacher attitude
9. Allow for interaction and socialization
10. Establish consistent methodology
Section 1

Questions?

For Further Information please contact:
Castlemoyle Books
P.O. Box 520
Pomeroy, WA 99347
www.castlemoyle.com
www.spellingpower.com
1-888-SPELL86 (Toll Free) or 1-509-843-5009
Since 1994, Adams-Gordon’s Spelling Power, the award-winning program that teaches solid back-to-basic spelling skills, has given home educators the perfect way to teach comprehensive spelling skills to all. It now features 21st century technology. Even if you are new to teaching, you’ll find that Spelling Power’s all new, easy-to-underline Quick Start Steps and the included Quick Start DVD Seminar will help you give each of your students Spelling Power in just 15 minutes per day!

Everything you need to teach each of your students spelling skills to the college level is contained in this one easy-to-use, step-by-step curriculum package.

When your student uses Adams-Gordon’s Spelling Power he will...
- use solid, research-proven, multi-sensory approaches
- master the 5,000 most frequently used words through six levels of built-in review
- review phonetic principles and spelling rules using spiral curriculum approach
- learn to carefully proofread his own writing
- practice careful, regular use of dictionary skills
- succeed whether a regular, special needs, or gifted student!

Teacher’s Resource CD-ROM makes your job easier...
- Every form and resource printable from home computer.
- Searchable List selecting words to review from writing.
- Charts provided for all 47 Group Rules.
- Printable Activity Task Cards.
- New bonus skill-building activities aid learning.
- Students love the included Spelling Power Digital Tutor. Digital Tutor offers students fun, yet powerful drill...
- Allows parent to create custom lists for each child.
- Offers learn, drill, and test activities for each word list.
- Tracks multiple children’s progress as they master words.
- Provides printable progress reports.
- Use during skill-building activity time for drill.
- 21st Century tool that makes spelling drill fun.

Quick Start DVD Seminar
- Step-by-step guide to using the Spelling Power program.
- Shows real home school families using the program.
  - DVD’s chapter feature makes reviewing steps easy.
  - Features author Beverly L. Adams-Gordon.
  - High Quality Photography & Graphics.

Spelling Power Includes a No-Question Asked Lifetime Guarantee and Free User Helpline!

For one low price you get the Spelling Power teacher’s manual, the Teacher’s Resource CD-ROM, and the Quick Start DVD Seminar. This one curriculum package is all you need to meet your entire family’s spelling instructional needs for a lifetime. Don’t be fooled by imitators… your family deserves the original “big Orange” Spelling Power program written for home educators by a home educator.

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Also available “Binder-Ready”
Identical to the regular binding, except loose-leaf and 3-hole punched, ready to slip into your own 2” binder.
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Note: Canadian/British alternate spellings appear in brackets behind the American spellings on the word lists (for example: color [colour]. making it possible for non-American spellers to use Adams-Gordon’s Spelling Power.

Order Toll Free
1-888-773-5586
Order: 14926-E1 . . .  $9.95

This Add-on CD-ROM for the Spelling Power Program includes printable forms needed, Ready-to-Print task cards, Word lists penmanship sheets, Charts of the 47 Spelling Rules, and more. These CD-ROMs were included in the 10th Anniversary editions of the Spelling Power Program. We are making them available to owners of earlier editions for a small cost to cover shipping and handling.
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Quick Start DVD
This DVD-seminar, presented by author Beverly L. Adams-Gordon, focuses on the basic approach to daily spelling sessions using the 3rd Edition or 10th Anniversary Edition of Spelling Power. You’ll be guided step-by-step through the key aspects of the program. After watching this DVD seminar you will be able to start using the Spelling Power program with little or no advanced preparation.
Order: 14926-E1 . . . $9.95

Order: 22012-E1..................................  $9.00

A great tool for beginning spellers who are hands-on learners! This unique component system allows students to manipulate letters without the stress of worrying about handwriting. Spelling Kit contains 144 magnetic 3/4” letters for composing 3- and 4-letter words. Includes both capitals and lower case with the vowels in red and the consonants blue. Use with many of Spelling Power’s Activity Task Cards (see facing page). All kits come in a handy 3-hole punched storage case. Part of an expandable system, see our website for details.
Order #: 22014-E1 $9.00

Hands-On Spelling Aids

Selecting Right the Student Record Book
Student Record Books are available in four sizes of lines. Below you will find a sample of the line size for each of the color-coded Student Record Books. Select the line size appropriate for your student’s “natural” writing size.

Blue Student Record Book
1/2” for 2-4th
Order: 21321-E1 .. $5.95

Green Student Record Book
3/8” for 4-6th
Order: 21322-E1 .. $5.95

Yellow Student Record Book
No mid-line — 6th & up
Order: 21323-E1 .. $5.95

Update your Spelling Power 3rd & 10th Anniversary Eds. with these Resources:
(Note: These resources are included with 4th ed. Spelling Power manuals.)

Resource CD-ROM

Order: 22013-E1 ........................... $9.00
Magnetic Binder Wipe-off Page
This 3-hole punched notebook page is a great place for your student to practice spelling words either using the magnetic letters (above) or by writing them with a wipe-off marker or both. We’ve made it in orange, so you’ll know it’s for Spelling!
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Tri-fold Magnetic Wipe-off Board
This handy magnetic board (11x23”) unfolds to reveal ample space to practice spelling words with magnetic letters or with a wipe-off pen. Actual board has a white surface.
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Add-on Magnetic Learning Sets
Use these kits to add to your spelling kit. The kits work together and are ideal for more advanced spellers!
Phonics Kit: 88 magnets, Digraphs & blends, 3/4” Red vowels, blue consonants, Silent “E” endings, Short vowels, Long vowels, Storage case
Order #: 22014-E1 $9.00

Wordbuilders Kit contains 83 magnetic components covering: word families, rhyming words, suffixes, and prefixes. Like other kits in this series, vowels are red and consonants are blue.
Order #: 22014-E1 $9.00

Order: 22013-E1 ........................... $9.00

Order: 22017-E1 ......................... $14.00

Order: 22016-E1 . . . . . $4.00

This Add-on CD-ROM for the Spelling Power Program includes: Printable forms needed, Ready-to-Print task cards, Word lists penmanship sheets, Charts of the 47 Spelling Rules, and more. These CD-ROMs were included in the 10th Anniversary editions of Spelling Power. We are making them available to owners of earlier editions for a small cost to cover shipping and handling.
Order: 14926-E1 . . . $4.95

Yellow Student Record Book
No mid-line — 6th & up
Order: 21323-E1 .. $5.95

Spelling Power calls for the use of two different forms daily, as well as a number of forms on a level-by-level basis. These forms are integral to the program. While masters for these forms are found in the manual, these Student Record Books are handy and cost effective. Each Spelling Power Student Record Book provides enough forms for one student to master the words on a Spelling Power level. Conveniently bound, with all forms printed in light blue so the student’s own handwriting stands out.

Quick Start DVD
This DVD-seminar, presented by author Beverly L. Adams-Gordon, focuses on the basic approach to daily spelling sessions using the 3rd Edition or 10th Anniversary Edition of Spelling Power. You’ll be guided step-by-step through the key aspects of the program. After watching this DVD seminar you will be able to start using the Spelling Power program with little or no advanced preparation.
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