

## Devon Outreach and QE SpLD Support Centre Information

Please contact Deborah Lynch or Ann Atherton if you have any queries or concerns.

All the following leaflets are available on the QE website:

- What is Dyslexia?
- Assessing for dyslexia
- Emotional Support for Dyslexic Students
- Reading at home
- Supporting Dyslexic Students in the Classroom
- How can I help my child?
- Helping with homework
- Helping your child with spelling
- Visual Stress
- Working Memory Difficulties

Ann and Deborah are part of a Secondary Dyslexia Network; these materials were produced by this group of teachers and educational psychologists.

## Devon SpLD (Dyslexia) Service Information

For further information please visit our web page:

<http://www.qe.devon.sch.uk/school-information/partnerships/devon-dyslexia-service/>

or contact

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How can I help  
my child with  
spelling

Devon SpLD  
(Dyslexia)  
Service

## How can I help my child with Spelling?

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The purpose of writing is to communicate thoughts and ideas and so writing words that can be read and understood is more important than getting spellings exactly right, at least as a first step.

**When your child wants to write a word** they do not know how to spell, encourage them to have a go. Encourage them to say the word aloud and listen to the sounds as they say it. Then they should attempt to write it out sound by sound saying the word aloud as they do so. They may want to write out two or more attempts - (e.g. bot, bote, boat, bowt) and then decide which one looks right. Children may find it useful to have a list of very common words with unusual spellings, to refer to as they write. For homework, it would be useful to have a keyword list for the subject - ask at school for one.

**When learning spellings** it helps to learn families of words which contain the same sound e.g. fight, sight, high, sigh, right, rather than lists of unrelated words.

There are many ways to learn how to spell words, but for a child having problems with spelling it is important to get them to write the words down as they learn them.

The '**Look Say Cover Write Check**' approach to learning spellings is a good method to teach your child. It uses a 'multi-sensory' approach, useful for dyslexic pupils:

<u>Look</u>	at the word
<u>Say</u>	it correctly aloud
<u>Cover</u>	it up
<u>Visualise</u>	the word (try to see a picture of the word)
<u>Write</u>	it down (while saying it aloud)
<u>Check</u>	to see if it's correct

Be aware that this method does not work for everyone. Nothing does!

If your child asks you to check through their writing, always make a positive comment first - e.g 'this is a really interesting story'. Then pick out **two or three** spellings for them to correct and learn using the 'Look Say Cover Write Check' approach described above. (Prioritise words which are used commonly, such as 'there', 'what', 'would'). **It is not at all helpful to pick out every mistake, and can be very demoralising.**

Using a word processing package with a spellchecker on a computer could be a great help to students who are able to have a good guess at spelling words. Selecting the correct alternative from a choice list helps to develop spelling knowledge and the use of a computer encourages independent working.

**BUT**, they will only be able to use such a spellchecker successfully if they have enough spelling knowledge to make a good guess and they are able to select the correct word from the list of words.

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