

NLP Spelling Approach

(NLP = Neuro Linguistic Programming, a communication and coaching approach).

This is a visual memory and visualizing approach to learning to spell. This is an intervention for children who are struggling to learn to spell and read.

Ideally this needs to be carried out daily, but 3 times per week is workable. This works well alongside paired reading (please see TISS guide).

Choose target words, put words on flash cards. An ideal starting place is the first 100 HFW. If these are secure, then consider words that are used often by the student, such as topic words.

1. Hold a card with the word above eye level and to the student's left (use letter names and print not cursive), in their visual accessing area.
2. Model spelling the target word, using letter names e.g. 'day' D – A – Y.
3. Ask the student to look at the word and say the letters – forward 6 times. Ask them to track with their eyes rather than move their head when reading/spelling the word. You may want to put a border (can be in colour) around the word to draw the eyes to the word.
4. Ask the student to look at it and spell it backwards – 6 times. This helps the student to get a good picture of the word in their head.
5. Turn the card over and show the child the blank side. Hold the card in the same place and ask the child to visualize the word and read the letters. Again 6 times forward and 6 times backwards.
6. Break state. If they struggle and get stuck you may want to take their mind off the task momentarily, i.e. break state. "Do you like popcorn?" "What did you have for breakfast?"
7. When the child has completed this, ask them to write the word in three different sentences.
8. On every session, revisit the previous spelling words that have been taught by asking the student to write it down. Then add a new word.

If the child is struggling to visualise the word, try a different colour for writing on the card or writing the syllables in different colours.

To see this in action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FW-LU7frS4> – a 6 minute guide and explanation (adult teaching himself).

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=TksMseqcXLg> - a 21 minute demonstration, with some elaboration.

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(June 2019)