Helping Children Learn Words

These effective teaching strategies will help children build word skills.

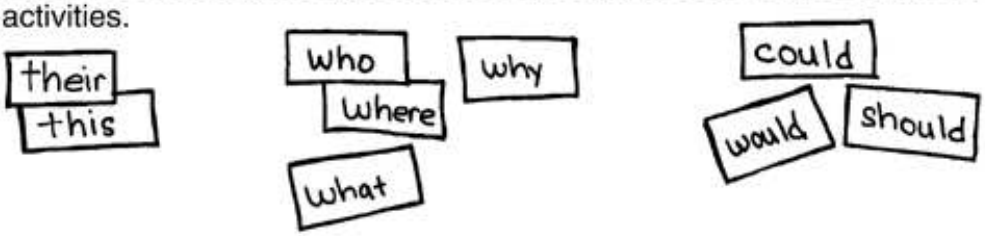
Present words in context.

their
They took their books home.

Show other words with similar spelling patterns.

photograph
telephone
graph

Help children use an analysis-approach to words. Make sets of word cards for word sorting activities.



Think aloud and model the strategies you want students to use when they work with words.

Reassure children that spelling is challenging for many people.That is why there are dictionaries and why computers have spell checking functions. Tell children that you:

sometimes make spelling errors
often use the dictionary to check spellings
use computer spell checks.

When children know others encounter difficulty spelling words, they are less frustrated when they have difficulty.

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