

# Education Corner

## Tips on Spelling

by Irene Long

### Developmental Spelling Patterns

Typical patterns used by early readers when spelling phonetically.

|   |                    |                  |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Long vowels are spelled by letter names.              | oak<br>you         | OK<br>u          |
| M or n before a consonant is dropped.                 | jump<br>stamp      | jup<br>stap      |
| Vowels are dropped before l,m,n, or r.                | atom<br>open       | atm<br>opn       |
| The –ed endings are changed to t or just d.           | stopped<br>timed   | stpt<br>timd     |
| Dr and jr sound the same.<br>Tr and ch sound the same | dragon<br>truck    | jargon<br>chruck |
| D and t are confused as medial sounds.                | ladder<br>attitude | later<br>aditud  |

For assistance in spelling the look-say-write method was developed by Nancy Murphy (1997).

1. Look at the word and say it to yourself.
2. Close your eyes and try to see the word as you spell it to yourself.
3. Check to see if you were right.
4. Cover the word and write it.
5. Check to see if you were right.
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 two more times.

If your child needs further assistance, add more sensory input and “Trace and Say” the Word...

Multisensory techniques are visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile (Fernald 1943). Students learn best when information is presented in different modalities. A study proved that third graders showed an 11% increase in correct spelling using the VAKT method as compared to students using traditional methods.