

# Spelling Tips for Helping at Home ...

## For Kindergartners

- Say a letter sound(s) and ask your kindergartner to draw the letter in cornmeal or sand.
- Touch each letter in a new word and say the sound, moving from left to right through the word (for example, say the sounds /s/ /u/ /n/ and blend the sounds to make “sun”). Have your child do it with your help and then alone. Begin with short, easy words, such as “hop,” “mat,” or “cat.”

## For Kindergartners-First Grade

- Provide practice identifying the sounds at the beginning of words (for example, the sound /t/ in “top” and the sound /b/ in “big”). Practice with other words and their beginning sounds.
- Have your child find household objects that have names that rhyme, such as “bread” and “thread.”
- Help your child to understand that words are made up of individual sounds. Practice identifying the sounds in simple words that are already part of their oral vocabulary.

## For Kindergartners-Second Grade

- Provide practice blending the sounds of spoken words. Ask your child to tell you what word these sounds make; for example, /r/, /u/, /n/ (run) and /s/, /a/, /t/ (sat). Continue with other words.
- Write words on pieces of paper and hide them throughout the house. Have your child go on a treasure hunt looking for the words and when the words are found, sound out the words.
- Have your child sound out words on your grocery list.

## For Kindergartners-Sixth Grade

- Provide short oral and written phonogram reviews at home.
- Help your child practice (study) for the weekly spelling test: Say the spelling word in normal speech. Have your child say the sounds, then say the sound(s) softly, write the word, and then say the whole word.
- Have your child read the spelling words two ways: for spelling (by sounds/syllables) and for reading (as a whole word) each week.

