

## Dear Parents,

Your child's spelling program may be different from what you've come to expect as "spelling." Instead of weekly lists of words to memorize, this program emphasizes the learning of important words, not for a Friday Test, but for a lifetime of spelling in the real world—that is, spelling correctly in writing.

This lifelong spelling ability grows over time. It grows through skills instruction (phonics, word origins, spelling rules, usage, etc.), through your child's everyday writing, and through word study on specific words your child has not yet mastered. You can extend this teaching into your home.

Prepare now for your child's at-home spelling experiences by identifying a special place, such as a file folder or box, in which to keep the materials we'll send home for your parent-child partnership opportunities.

### *To help your child learn and use essential skills:*

- **TAKE-HOME TASKS** will be sent home regularly. They are skill-building activity sheets for you and your child to do together. These tasks will complement the skills we're working on at school.
- **SKILL-BUILDING EXERCISES** are homework activities for you and your child to do to prepare for or follow up on our class lessons.

### *To help your child spell and use essential words:*

- **PAPERS FOR PROOFREADING** will come home often. You see, your child will be expected to spell some words correctly all the time to meet the minimum requirement for spelling in everyday writing. These words are called Priority Words. They are the words that occur most frequently in writing. As your child proofreads for these words, s/he will practice the skills for proofreading any word. You and your child will be kept informed of this list of words that will grow throughout the year.
- Along with the first papers for proofreading, we'll send home ideas for you to use as you and your child proofread these papers together.
- **WORDS TO LEARN** is a list of Spelling Words your child has not yet mastered. We'll identify these words and send them home. Help your child study these words every other day or so to master them once and for all. That's our goal.

With the first Words to Learn sheet, we'll send home ideas for you and your child to do together to learn these words.

Let's make your child's spelling growth a team effort—you, your child, and all of us here at school. We can work together to make your child a speller!



# Level Four Core Words

Words with Frequencies in Writing 1-500

\* Denotes Core Words introduced in Level 4.

a	back	can't*	during	follow*	hear
able*	ball*	car	each	food	heard
about	be	care*	early	foot*	heart*
above	beautiful*	carefully*	earth	for	heavy*
across	became	carry*	easy*	form	held*
add	because	center*	eat	found	help
after	become*	certain*	either*	four	her
again	been	change	else*	friend*	here
against	before	check*	end	from	high
ago	began	children	English*	front	him
air	begin*	city	enough	full*	himself
all	behind*	class*	even	game*	his
almost	being	close	ever	gave	hold*
alone*	below	cold	every	get	home
along	best	come	everyone*	girl*	horse*
already*	better	common*	everything*	give	hot*
also	between	complete*	example	glass*	hour*
although*	big	could	face	go	house
always	black	country	fact*	going	how
am*	blue*	course	fall*	gold*	however
American	boat*	cut	family	gone*	hundred*
among*	body	dark*	far	good	I
an	book	day	fast*	got	I'll
and	both	deep*	father	great	I'm
animal	bottom*	did	feel*	green*	ice*
animals*	box*	didn't	feet	ground	idea
another	boy	different	felt*	group	if
answer	bring*	distance*	few	grow*	important
any	brought	do	field*	had	in
anything*	build*	does	finally*	half	inside
are	built*	dog*	find	hand	instead*
area*	but	done	fine*	happened*	into
around	by	don't	fire*	hard	is
as	called	door	first	has	it
asked	came	down	fish	have	it's
at	can	draw*	five	he	its
away	cannot*	dry*	floor*	head	itself*

AS WE LEARN  
TO SPELL  
THESE WORDS,  
WE USE THEM  
TO BUILD SKILLS  
AND TO MAKE  
MORE WORDS.



job*	map*	only	remember	someone*	thing	was
just	matter*	open	rest*	something	think	watch*
keep	may	or	right	soon	third*	water
kept*	me	order	river*	sound	this	way
kind	mean*	other	road*	space	those	we
knew	men	our	rock*	special*	though	weather*
know	might	out	room	stand*	thought	well
land	mind*	outside*	round*	start*	three	went
language*	miss*	over	run	state*	through	were
large	money	own	sad	stay*	time	what
last	moon*	page	said	still	tiny*	when
later	more	paper	same	stood*	to	where
lay*	morning	part	sat*	stop*	today	whether*
learn	most	past*	saw	story	together	which
learned	mother	pattern*	say	strong*	told	while
least*	move	people	school	study	too	white
leave*	much	perhaps*	sea	such	took	who
leaves*	must	person*	second	suddenly*	top	whole
left	my	picture	see	summer*	toward	why
less*	name	piece*	seen	sun	town*	wide*
let	near	place	sentence	sure	tree	wild*
letter*	need	plants	set	surface*	true	will
life	never	play	several	system*	try	wind*
light	new	point	she	table	turn	winter*
like	next	poor*	shell*	take	turned	with
line	night	possible*	ship*	talk*	two	within*
list*	no	power*	short	tall*	under	without
little	not	probably*	should	tell	understand*	words
live	nothing	problem*	show	ten*	United States	work
lived	notice*	put	shown*	than	until	world
living	now	question*	side	that	up	would
long	number	quite*	simple*	that's*	upon	write
longer*	of	rain*	since	the	us	year
look	off	ran*	six*	their	use	yes*
low*	often	read	size*	them	usually	yet*
made	oh*	reading*	sky*	themselves*	very	you
main*	old	ready*	small	then	voice*	young
make	on	real*	snow*	there	walked*	your
man	once	really	so	these	want	
many	one	red	some	they	warm*	