

What you might see:

You might see a child who:

Misspells common or high-frequency words despite practice.

Applies phonics inaccurately when spelling unknown words.

Struggles to recall or apply spelling rules or patterns.

Confuses homophones (e.g., there/their/they're).

Omits or reverses letters within words.

Avoids writing longer or unfamiliar words.

What you can try:

- Teach and revisit spelling patterns using multi-sensory approaches (e.g. saying, writing, tracing).
- Display common exception words and refer to them during teaching.
- Use “look, say, cover, write, check” and precision teaching to practise focus words.
- Provide word mats and editing checklists to support spelling.
- Encourage use of technology (e.g. spellcheck, text-to-speech).
- Teach spelling patterns and rules explicitly.
- Provide structured practice to develop accuracy and recall.
- Teach spelling in small steps with regular review.