

NLP Spelling Strategy

Introduction.

Good spellers use a strategy, they may not know it, but when we look and watch where they look whilst spelling, we can identify this strategy.

As we know, we can't spell phonetics phonetically, so sounding things out may not necessarily be the ideal strategy for spelling, especially if the child is already struggling.

When we read articles, letters or course work, for many of us, words that are incorrectly spelled leap off the page, we will find ourselves looking at an unfamiliar word and it just doesn't feel right as we look at it. This is because many of us employ a visual and kinaesthetic spelling strategy, which we will detail below.

Strategy

Good spellers will literally read the word from a mental picture of the word that feels right, this is why, when we become competent readers, we look at the shape of the words, not the individual letters, to help us read and understand more quickly.

AND THIS IS WHY IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO READ A SENTENCE THAT USES ONLY CAPITAL LETTERS - THE WORD SHAPES ARE LESS DISTINCT, AS NO LETTERS RISE ABOVE THE REST OR DROP BELOW THE LINE.

Because we know a mental picture is more useful, we also need to know that the spelling in that picture is right, and this is where the NLP spelling strategy comes into it's own.

You will need: -

Multi Coloured Pens

Several "complex" words

Paper

About 10 minutes

Some children who are struggling with their spellings.

The Process: -

Write the "complex" word, e.g. Ciprofloxacin (which happens to be a 4-Quinolone antibiotic by the way) clearly in coloured pen, using groups of 3 letters for each colour, then changing the colour, for example:- Ciprofloxacin

Begin by placing the piece of paper with the word on it in front of the student, just off to their right (if they are right handed) or their left if they are left handed. Cover all but the first three letters (Cip) and ask the student to keep their head still and glance down at the word, then to look up to their left and make a picture of it up there.

Continue in this manner, revealing the word in groups of three letters, until all the word is revealed.

Finally, when the student has a clear picture of the word, ask them to spell the word – they will normally be able to do so easily, encourage them to read their mental picture of the word.

Once they can spell the word with ease, ask them to spell it backwards, again, encourage them to read it from their mental picture. Once they have been able to do this effectively, you may wish to ask them the colour of the second “O”, or the second “C” or whatever letter you choose, this they will be able to do, as their mental image of the word is clear.

Whilst this may take some time to complete effectively the first time around, once the student gets to grips with the strategy, they will begin to do this for themselves (without the colours) unconsciously, this is when they are on the road to a successful spelling strategy.

If you have any queries, please call me on 0151 931 5184, or email me at george.cunningham@nlpliverpool.com

Below is a word for you to use to practice with:-

Ciprofloxacin