

Train Your Child to Use His Photographic Memory for Spelling ©

This efficient right brain spelling strategy is simple.

1. Give your child a pre-test from a short list of words from the "most commonly used words" list. (You can email craft@ecentral.com to request this free list)
2. In the words that were spelled incorrectly, and write them on individual cards, (a typing paper folded in half lengthwise, is a good size.) Using bold colored Magic Markers, take the letters that were wrong, or left out, and color them and "weird" them up.
(An example: If he spelled "Saturday as Saterday" put the Sat-r-day in black marker on a card, since he knew those letters. Put the "u" in blue, with wavy lines in it to represent water, and a stick figure diving into the water. You can add a story, like, "They all Sat around on Saturday and one of them got bored, so the brothers decided to go swimming.)
3. Stand in front of the child, and hold the card straight up in front of your child so his eyes are looking up. Have him glance at it, then bring it down while his eyes remain looking up, where the card had been. Flash this card in the air, five or six times until your child can "see" it in the air, tell you the colors and pictures on the letters and easily spell it forwards and backwards. If your child can't easily "see" it in the air, show it more times, or put more "velcro" on it by putting in more color, (putting "blood" dripping from a letter is a sure fire way to get the letter to stick with boys!)
4. Review the card using this same visual method, each day of the week for a few minutes. Be sure to spell it both forwards and backwards each day to cement it in. Then give a written test at the end of the week.
5. Your child's "photographic memory" will become stronger and stronger as you use this method.

Remember that your child's visual memory is his greatest strength. As you help him develop that, using spelling words, math facts, or anything, you will see learning and memorizing become much easier. The success a child feels when he can "see it" is priceless.

We call Right Brain Teaching Strategies, “Plan B.” So if you have a child who:

- 1.) Has underdeveloped memory strategies (spelling, math facts, rules) ;
- 2.) Has an auditory processing problem;
- 3.) Is a struggling reader...can't remember phonics, sight words, etc.;
- 4.) Or you just have a child who does not respond well to all the other curriculum you have, and dislikes schoolwork intensely

You will find that these Right Brain Teaching Strategies are a real gift, helping the child/teenager get in touch with the “smart part of themselves.” It does not matter if you think your child is right brain dominant or left brain dominant. Remember that right brain teaching is, “Plan B.” If “Plan A” (auditory, writing and curriculum) is keeping your child frustrated and finding learning difficult, it is so easy to use Plan B. In school, when I taught my “Twice Exceptional” (gifted with a glitch) 6th, 7th and 8th graders, I used right brain teaching methods (spelling, reading, math, paragraphing) exclusively. At the end of one year they didn't need my class anymore, because now they knew how to use their wonderful learning strength...their right brain!



Dianne Craft, a former homeschooling mother, has a Masters in Special Education and is director of the clinic Child Diagnostics, Inc., in Littleton, CO. For more ideas on how to teach using right brain techniques, you can order her DVD, Teaching the Right Brain Child at www.diannecraft.org Dianne has created a Right Brain Phonics Reading program, Sight Word cards, Multiplication Cards, and many other teaching tools for parents to use at home.