

What is the Best Way to Help Your Child with Writing Assignments?

At school, the children use the "Word Wall" to help the children spell the sight words we are learning to read. You can have this same tool at home by using the flash cards that we sent home with your child. Just lay the cards out on the table where your child is working. When your child needs help spelling a word, have him or her find that word on the table or "Word Wall." Then he or she can copy it from there onto the paper. (Never put the words in order for your child. Part of the exercise is finding the correct word by themselves.)

Prompt your child by asking them, "What is the sentence we are trying to write?" After he responds, ask him, "So what is the first word of the sentence?" "Can you find that word? Now copy it." Then ask your child to read the sentence back to you, and then tell you what the next word should be. Have him find that next word and copy it down. Whenever your child gets stuck, have him read the sentence back to you and then try to guess what the next word should be. Whenever your child finishes a sentence, they should always read it back to you, pointing to the words as they go. That way, if they have skipped a word they can fix their mistake.

In our class, we let the children copy down all of the words from the Word Wall that they need, but they must sound out any other words that they want to include that are not on the wall. The only exceptions are the words that go along with the theme for that month. For example, if we are studying sea life, then our Word Wall also includes some pictures of sea animals with the words printed next to the picture. The children may copy a word from there, or think of a different sea animal that was not included on the wall and sound that word out. You can do the same thing at home by helping your child to draw pictures and labeling them. Children get extra points on their work if they sound out words, so encouraging them to do this is always a plus! Good luck, and let us know if we can help you in any way!

