

“Is My Child Ready to Begin *All About Spelling*?”

All About Spelling is different from most other programs in that your child can begin as soon as he is ready to learn to read. The ideal time to begin spelling is after the child is able to read simple CVC words.

Benefits to Beginning Spelling Early

- Your child learns good spelling habits right from the beginning and doesn't have to "unlearn" anything later.
- Everything your child learns in *All About Spelling* will strengthen his reading ability.
- The child's first experience with spelling can be successful instead of frustrating.
- *All About Spelling* starts at the very beginning, teaching students foundational skills.

Skills Your Child Should Have Before Beginning *All About Spelling*

Before the child can make sense of reading and spelling, he or she needs to be aware of the sounds of spoken language (also called phonemic awareness). Here are some activities that strengthen phonemic awareness, arranged in order of difficulty from easiest to most difficult:

- Listening activities (Have the student close his eyes and identify the sound, such as breathing, trucks, and fans)
- Rhyming games and poems
- Breaking up sentences into the individual words
- Learning to identify syllables
- Learning to identify initial sounds
- Learning to identify final sounds
- Teaching the sounds of the letters

All About Spelling Level 1 contains complete instructions for the last four items on this list.

Unlike most spelling programs, you can begin using *All About Spelling* even if handwriting is difficult for your young child. You can work on strengthening handwriting at the same time as he or she learns to spell. The letter tiles allow even the youngest child to progress easily.