

Building Confidence

Developmental Stages of Language Learning

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Five Developmental Stages of Spelling

Stage I *Preliterate*

Stage II *Phonetic*

Stage III *Skill Development*


Stage IV *Word Extension*

Stage V *Derivational Constancy*



Stage I *Preliterate*

- ✓ Children become aware of English print.
- ✓ Children use “pretend writing” with scribbles or random marks.
- ✓ Children write actual letters, often beginning with their own names.
- ✓ Children need to have someone read to them a minimum of 1,000 hours before reading instruction becomes meaningful.



Stage II *Phonetic*

- ✓ Primarily auditory
- ✓ Phonemic awareness
- ✓ Matching individual sounds to letters
- ✓ Applying basic rules of phonics to both reading and spelling



Stage III *Skill Development*

- ✓ Phonics rules are de-emphasized.
- ✓ The primary focus is no longer auditory.
- ✓ Children must develop a visual memory for unpredictable spelling patterns.
- ✓ Spelling patterns must be connected to meaningful context so they can be linked to long-term memory.



Stage IV *Word Extension*

- ✓ Focuses on syllables within words and affixes
- ✓ Specific issues that may cause difficulty:
 - Doubling consonants when changing the endings
 - Dropping the final e before adding an ending
 - Tricky spellings like almost instead of *ailmost*
- ✓ Often the brightest children become the most confused or exasperated by inconsistencies



Stage V *Derivational Constancy*

- ✓ Explores related words with the same derivation or origin
 - Words usually have a consistent pattern despite changes in pronunciation.
- ✓ Greek and Latin root study helpful
- ✓ Language arts or vocabulary curriculum invaluable for study



Overview

Level	Curriculum	Spelling Stage
A	<i>Listen and Write</i>	Phonetic
B	<i>Jack and Jill</i>	Phonetic into Skill Development
C	<i>Wild Tales</i>	Skill Development
D	<i>Americana</i>	Skill Development
E	<i>American Spirit</i>	Skill Development
F	<i>Ancient Achievements</i>	Skill Development
G	<i>Modern Milestones</i>	Word Extension