

# What do we know about spelling?

## Spelling is...

- ... developmental
- ... a social skill
- ... problem-solving

## Spelling is not...

- ... a sign of intelligence
- ... just memory work
- ... the same process for every person or every word

Spelling is internalized, not memorized

## Spelling instruction can take a variety of forms:

- ✓ Explicit instruction (maximum 15-20 min/day, often as mini lessons before writing workshop)
- ✓ Incidental instruction throughout the day ("teachable moments")
- ✓ Individual conferencing during the writing workshop

**Focus on patterns  
and strategies that  
can be applied to  
new words.**

# SPELLING SPRINGBOARDS

<p><b>High Frequency Words</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Word Walls - "No excuse words"</li> <li>◆ Varied learning modes - visual, auditory, tactile, rhythmical</li> <li>◆ "Harvest" from student writing and/or shared reading</li> <li>◆ Focus on 5 per week</li> </ul>	<p><b>Morphological Chunks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ "meaningful" chunks: prefixes, suffixes, roots</li> <li>◆ structural changes - contractions, compounds, parts of speech</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy Spots</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Find words misspelled in daily work and develop a strategy to remember them</li> <li>◆ "Tricks for the Tricky Parts"</li> <li>◆ Visual, Auditory, Semantic strategies</li> <li>◆ Connecting to other words</li> <li>◆ Mnemonics</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proofreading Practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Morning Message: find the errors</li> <li>◆ Strategies for proofreading (e.g. "Tap the word")</li> </ul>	<p><b>Word Origins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Greek, Latin roots</li> <li>◆ Words from other languages</li> <li>◆</li> </ul>	<p><b>Word Play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Games and puzzles</li> <li>◆ Books that play with language</li> <li>◆ Experiment with sounds</li> </ul>
<p><b>Word Sorts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Closed sorts</li> <li>◆ Open sorts</li> <li>◆ Generalizations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Letter Patterns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Word families (rimes and onsets)</li> <li>◆ Blends, digraphs</li> <li>◆ Vowel Combinations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Homonym Pairs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Memory tricks for distinguishing them</li> </ul>

