



Name: _____ Date: _____

Spelling with Phonics

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching people to read by correlating sounds created by letters or groups of letters within an alphabet. When we teach spelling by phonics, we focus on the correlation between graphemes (groups of letters that form a single sound) and phonemes (their sounds). By studying spelling through phonics, students begin to see letter-sound relationships. As such, these students develop strong decoding and encoding skills.

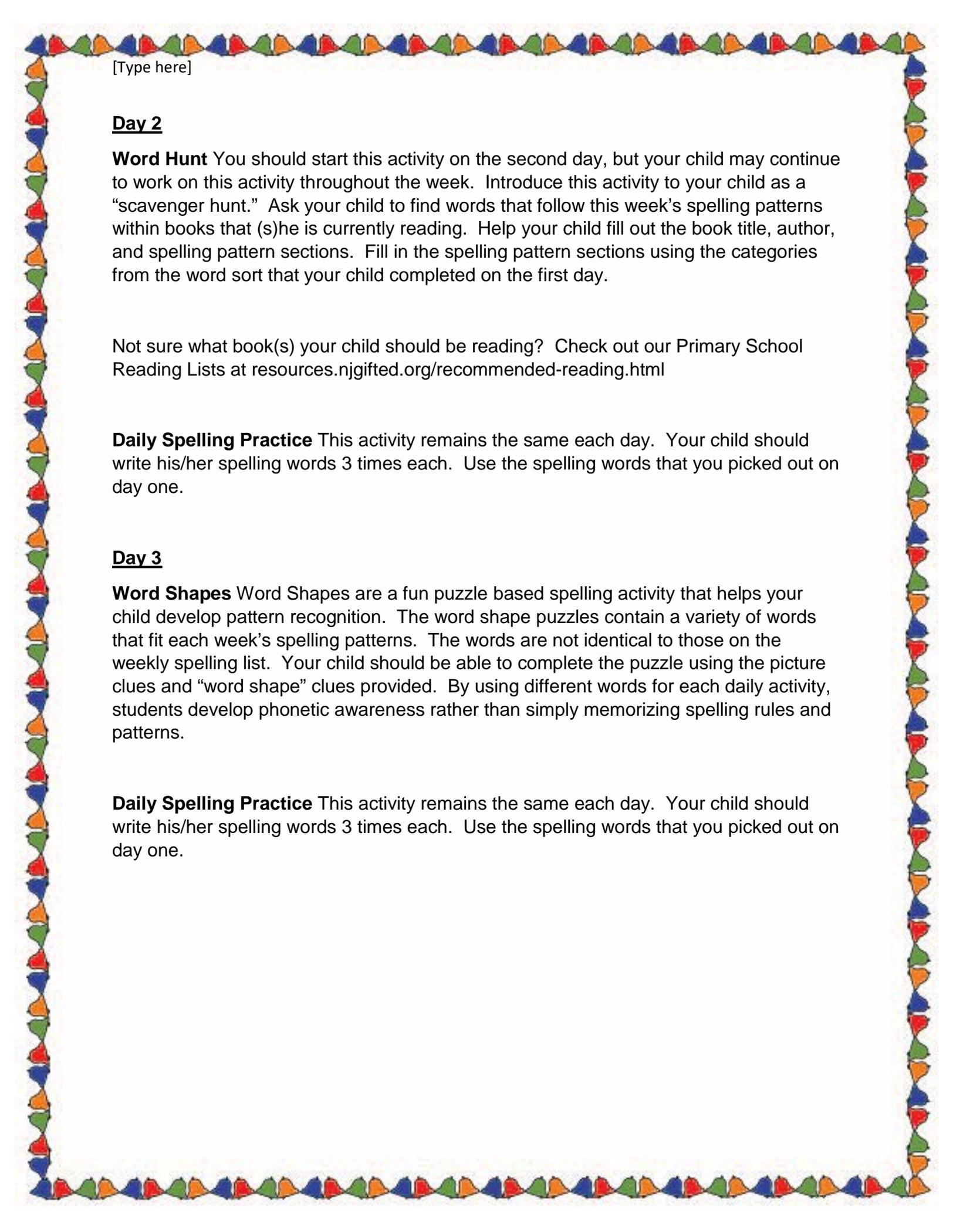
A successful phonics curriculum focuses on the sounds within words rather than simply memorized spellings. The HEROES Academy spelling curriculum focuses on a different sound each week, but each week includes a variety of spellings that produce the same sound. Students develop pattern recognition skills rather than memorizing spelling rules and exceptions.

Rather than memorizing a set list of words each week, students become familiar with various spelling patterns that fit a single phonetic sound. For example, the long a sound can be created with the a-e spelling pattern such as in the word *date*. Alternatively, the long a sound can be created with the ai spelling pattern such as in the word *bait*. At the first and second grade level, you will notice that most of the words for a given week rhyme.

Day 1

Pre-Test Start the week off by pre-testing your child. A pre-test, or preliminary test, should be administered BEFORE your child begins specific course work. Use this pre-test to determine whether your child already knows this week's material or needs to learn this week's material. Simply read the words from the current week's spelling list aloud to your child. Ask your child to write the words on the "Spelling Pre-Test" activity sheet. When your child is finished, check for correctness. Pick 5 to 10 spelling words for your child to work on this week. Your child should write these words three times each for five days. If your child spelled more than 90% of the words correct, your child should move on to next week's spelling words and skip this week.

Word Sort At the beginning of each week, students participate in a "Word Sort." Cut out the cards on the "word sort" page and ask your child to sort the words into their spelling patterns. As your child sorts, ask him/her to say each word aloud. You can also ask your child to trace the letters on each card for some built-in handwriting practice. When your child is done sorting, ask him/her to think of a few other words that fit the given spelling patterns. Add these words to the word sort lists.



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Day 2

Word Hunt You should start this activity on the second day, but your child may continue to work on this activity throughout the week. Introduce this activity to your child as a “scavenger hunt.” Ask your child to find words that follow this week’s spelling patterns within books that (s)he is currently reading. Help your child fill out the book title, author, and spelling pattern sections. Fill in the spelling pattern sections using the categories from the word sort that your child completed on the first day.

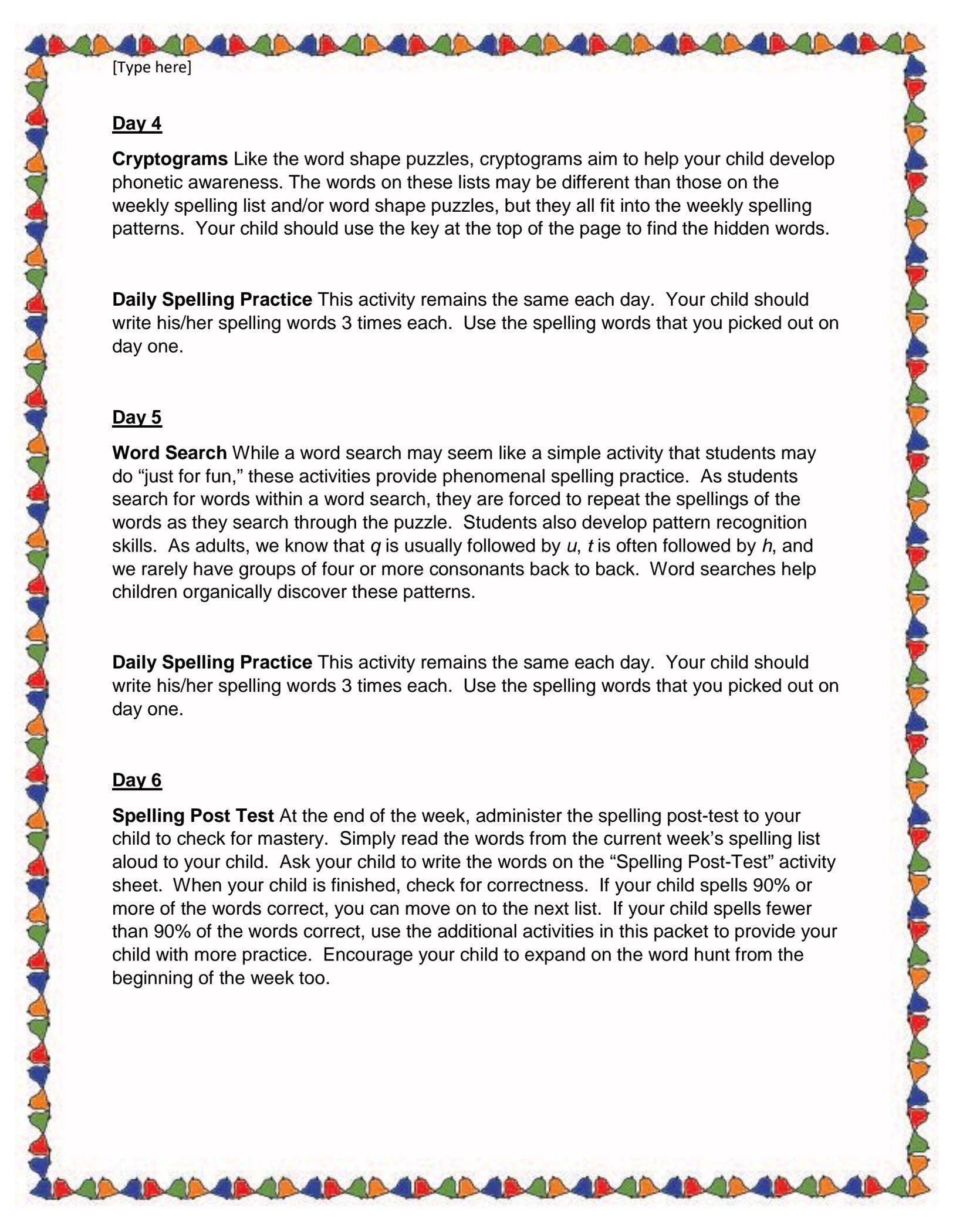
Not sure what book(s) your child should be reading? Check out our Primary School Reading Lists at resources.njgifted.org/recommended-reading.html

Daily Spelling Practice This activity remains the same each day. Your child should write his/her spelling words 3 times each. Use the spelling words that you picked out on day one.

Day 3

Word Shapes Word Shapes are a fun puzzle based spelling activity that helps your child develop pattern recognition. The word shape puzzles contain a variety of words that fit each week’s spelling patterns. The words are not identical to those on the weekly spelling list. Your child should be able to complete the puzzle using the picture clues and “word shape” clues provided. By using different words for each daily activity, students develop phonetic awareness rather than simply memorizing spelling rules and patterns.

Daily Spelling Practice This activity remains the same each day. Your child should write his/her spelling words 3 times each. Use the spelling words that you picked out on day one.



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Day 4

Cryptograms Like the word shape puzzles, cryptograms aim to help your child develop phonetic awareness. The words on these lists may be different than those on the weekly spelling list and/or word shape puzzles, but they all fit into the weekly spelling patterns. Your child should use the key at the top of the page to find the hidden words.

Daily Spelling Practice This activity remains the same each day. Your child should write his/her spelling words 3 times each. Use the spelling words that you picked out on day one.

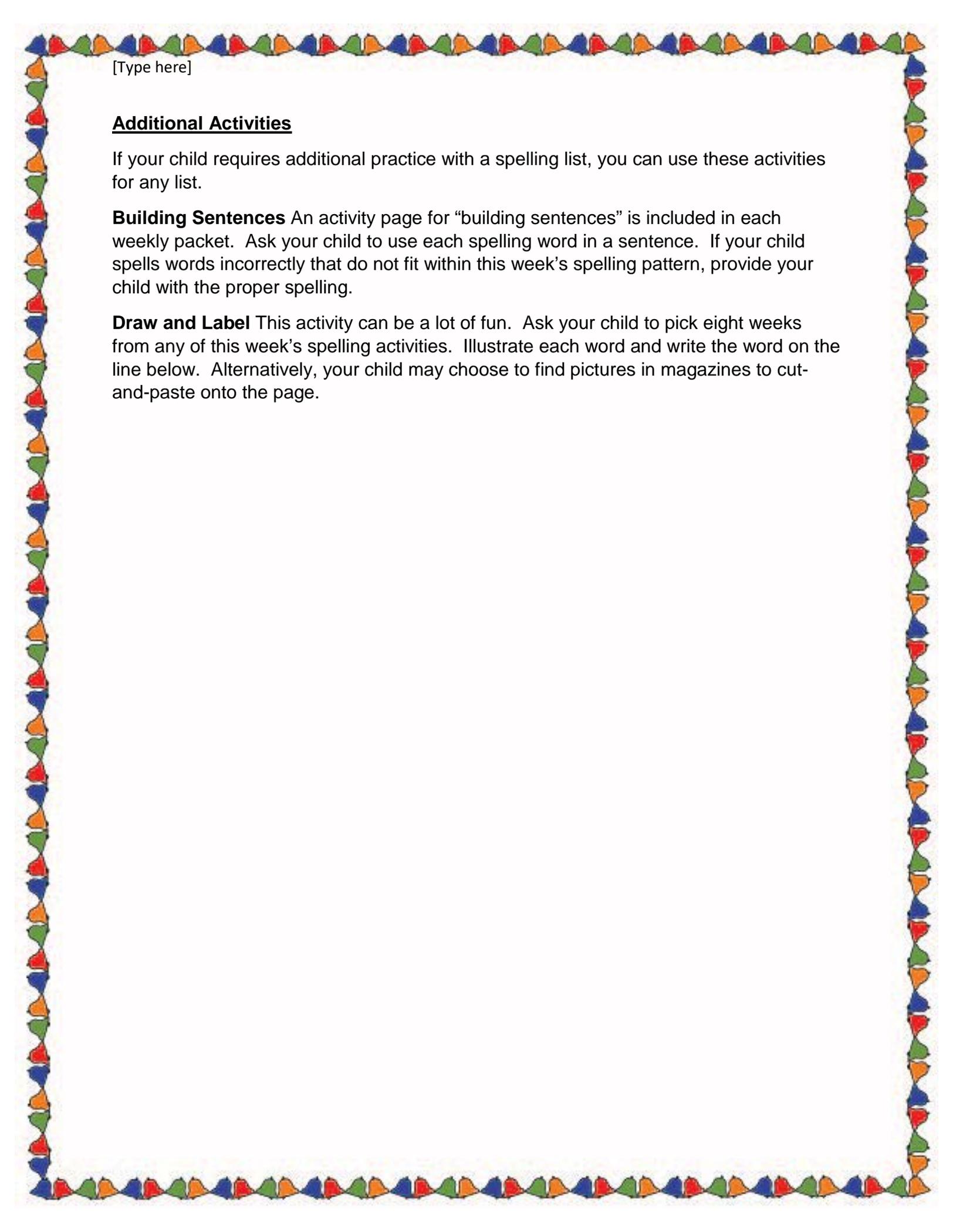
Day 5

Word Search While a word search may seem like a simple activity that students may do “just for fun,” these activities provide phenomenal spelling practice. As students search for words within a word search, they are forced to repeat the spellings of the words as they search through the puzzle. Students also develop pattern recognition skills. As adults, we know that *q* is usually followed by *u*, *t* is often followed by *h*, and we rarely have groups of four or more consonants back to back. Word searches help children organically discover these patterns.

Daily Spelling Practice This activity remains the same each day. Your child should write his/her spelling words 3 times each. Use the spelling words that you picked out on day one.

Day 6

Spelling Post Test At the end of the week, administer the spelling post-test to your child to check for mastery. Simply read the words from the current week’s spelling list aloud to your child. Ask your child to write the words on the “Spelling Post-Test” activity sheet. When your child is finished, check for correctness. If your child spells 90% or more of the words correct, you can move on to the next list. If your child spells fewer than 90% of the words correct, use the additional activities in this packet to provide your child with more practice. Encourage your child to expand on the word hunt from the beginning of the week too.



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Additional Activities

If your child requires additional practice with a spelling list, you can use these activities for any list.

Building Sentences An activity page for “building sentences” is included in each weekly packet. Ask your child to use each spelling word in a sentence. If your child spells words incorrectly that do not fit within this week’s spelling pattern, provide your child with the proper spelling.

Draw and Label This activity can be a lot of fun. Ask your child to pick eight weeks from any of this week’s spelling activities. Illustrate each word and write the word on the line below. Alternatively, your child may choose to find pictures in magazines to cut-and-paste onto the page.