

Contents

Acknowledgements	7
Introduction	9
Purpose of this book	11
Organisation of this book	13
How to use this book	16

Chapter 1: Spelling Methodology 17

The nature of an alphabetic language	17
Steps to success for reading and writing English	18
Vocabulary knowledge	18
Phonological and phonemic awareness skills	20
Orthographic knowledge	22
Morphological knowledge	22
Spelling rules and conventions	23
Knowledge of strategies	23
Trouble-shooting literacy difficulties	24

Chapter 2: Assessment 26

Introduction	26
Gap Analysis Assessments	29
Pseudoword Spelling Test	52
Blends Test	61
15 Minute Writing Sample	64

Chapter 3: Teaching Topics 83

The sounds of English and common ways to write them	83
Topic 1: Spelling the sounds of English	85
Topic 2: Blends	100
Topic 3: h digraph spelling patterns	116
Topic 4: Short vowel sounds	120
Topic 5: The role of the final e	133
Topic 6: Long vowel sounds	140

Topic 7: Other vowel sounds	171
‘ar’	172
‘er’	174
‘or’	177
‘air’ and ‘ear’	180
‘ow’	182
‘oy’	185
Topic 8: Consonant sounds written different ways	189
‘s’	189
‘j’	202
‘k’	212
‘l’ and ‘il’	233
Topic 9: Syllables	239
Topic 10: Root words	280
Topic 11: Prefixes	298
Topic 12: Suffixes	309
Topic 13: Plurals	320
Topic 14: Compound words	329
Topic 15: Homophones, homographs and homonyms	335
Topic 16: Contractions	338
Topic 17: Possessive apostrophes	349

Chapter 4: Developing Proofreading Skills 356

Appendix A: Strategies for spelling unfamiliar words	378
Appendix B: Strategies for decoding unfamiliar words	387
Appendix C: Activities for developing phonemic awareness skills	389
Appendix D: Useful resources	393
Glossary	394
Bibliography	397
Index of teaching topics and practice activities	399
Index	400