

Spelling Bee

Developmental Benefits of Play: Cognitive, Creative, Physical, Communicative, Social

Focus Skills/Subject: Speaking, Communication, Vocabulary, Comprehension, Imagination, Storytelling

Grades: 3+

Divide class into 4 equal teams of students. Teacher announces the word to be spelled for Team #1.

Team #1 gets up and forms a straight line across front of the class.

- The team chooses the order of the students in the line.
- Only one student can speak at a time to ask the teacher for the definition, word origin and/or to use in a sentence.
- The first student begins spelling the word by stating the first letter.
- The second student in the line states the second letter continuing to spell out the word.
- Depending upon the number of letters in the word, the rest of the team continues to spell out the word in order until the word is completed.

The other teams stay engaged by checking for accuracy. If Team #1 does not spell the word correctly, Team #2 then steps up to the front for their turn. If Team #1 successfully spells the word correctly, the teacher announces a new word for Team #2.

Continue with new words all the teams for as long as time allows. This activity can be played competitively for points or just for fun!

Tips:

- Always start the game using silly simple words. For round one, use with monosyllabic words, then move onto words with two syllables, three syllables and so on in order for students to get the hang of the game.
- This game can be used with vocabulary in ALL subjects, i.e. history, science, languages
- For older students, spelling can be replaced by doing rounds of metaphors, similes, etc.



This play-based activity was submitted by Amy De Friese from Bernardo Yorba Middle School in Yorba Linda, CA