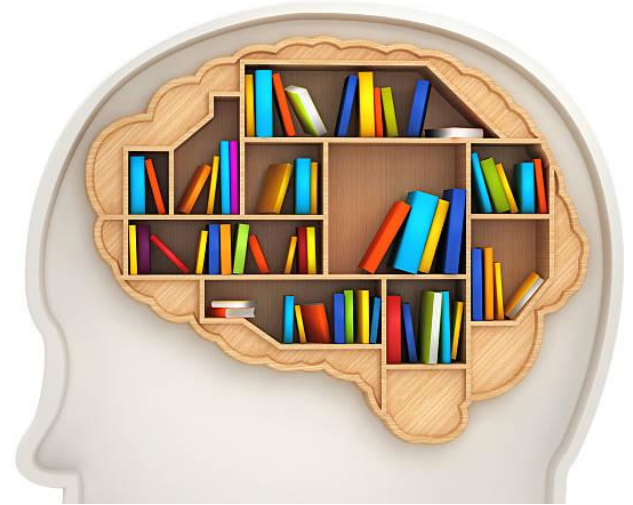


Spelling is the most effective way for students to build a library of letter-sound correspondences, making it easier for them to recognize those letter-sound associations in print.



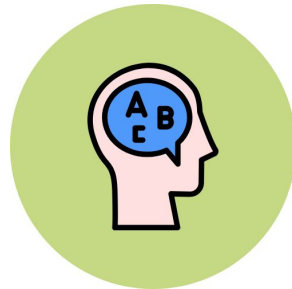
Our brains “read” by turning letters back into the sounds they represent. The brain “hears sounds” when it sees letters. **It can only do this if it already has a library of letter-sound relationships.** When the brain sees “cat,” it hears the phonemes or sounds associated with each letter and rapidly blends them as one “sound packet.” Once “cat” is mapped to the brain as a familiar sequence of letter sounds, the reading brain will automatically recognize and say the entire sound packet as one word the next time it sees that sequence of letters.



Spelling helps students to learn and store letter-sound relationships which helps them to decode printed words.

Spelling enables the brain to store an extensive sequence of letter-sound relationships because the brain processes oral language more naturally than it processes written words.

The brain's preference for oral language explains why children (including those challenged with reading difficulties such as dyslexia) possess a far greater ability to understand spoken words than their ability to recognize them in print.

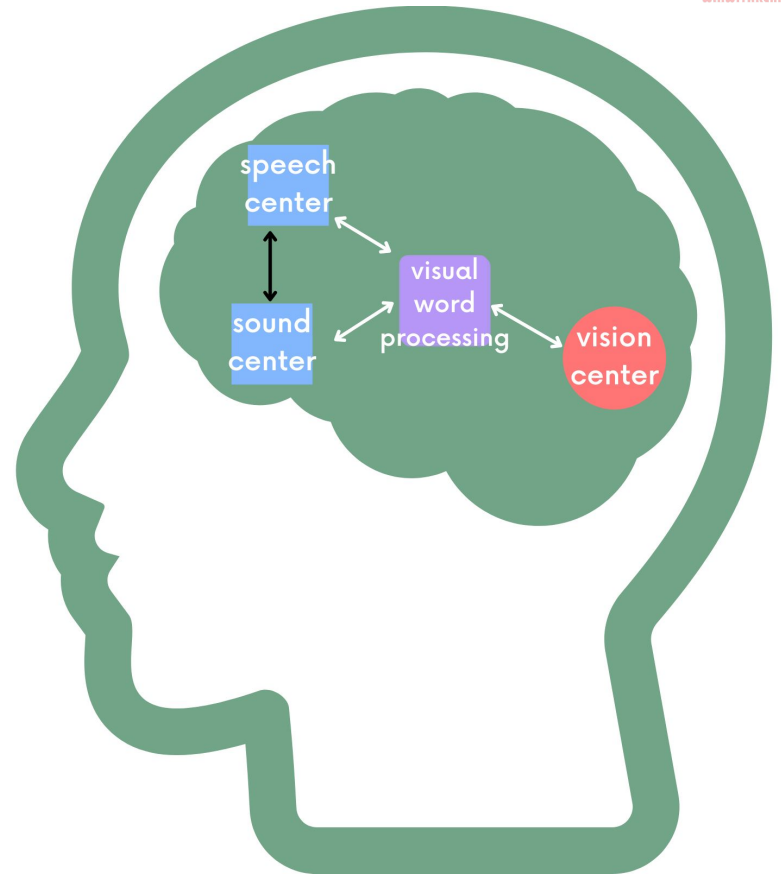


Spelling introduces new words directly through the brain's phonological (or sound) processor, making it easier to arrange and store those words as letter-sound sequences.



These sound sequences can be activated automatically to recognize and read those identical letter-sound sequences in print. Since spelling creates a large letter-sound library in the brain, it helps students read by mapping stored sounds to printed letters that match those sounds. Students then blend those sounds into units of sounds called words.

When students learn to spell and read by sound, they have an easier time processing sentences at the speed of sight.



Review:

Students should learn how to Spell Well to Read Well

- Words are made up of sounds.
- **Each letter in our alphabet represents a sound.**
- To spell, students must hear sounds and “see” them as letters.
- To read, students must see letters and “hear” them as sounds.
- **Spelling requires students to listen and to think carefully about the sounds they need to learn to read.**
- **Spelling is best because it prevents the tendency to guess.**
- **Spelling makes kids bright because it teaches them to read and write by focusing on sounds instead of sight.**

