



Applying Stages of Memory to Brain Highways Spelling

By providing activities that represent each stage of memory, spelling words are registered, encoded, filed, and retrieved with ease.

	Create a Mindset	Brain Highways Spelling
Stage One	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ The mind pays more attention if it perceives a <i>reason</i> to listen. ❑ The mind pays more attention when it is interested than what it is not interested. ❑ Novelty is key to an effective mindset because the brain immediately pays attention to the unusual, the unexpected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ The program's lively introduction includes "The Convincing" (why kids should even bother to learn to spell), "The Lies" (the myths related to spelling) and "The Truth" (why correct spelling became important)—all to set the mind to want to spell correctly. ❑ Each activity begins with a question to peak interest:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Can you save your poisoned spelling word?▪ Can you make a mess out of spelling?▪ How fast can you drive past letters of your spelling word?▪ Is your spelling word a Sammy Whammy?▪ How much money will you earn from your spelling word? ❑ Novelty appears throughout the program as kids create cities in <i>Building Spelling</i>, aim for bulls-eyes in <i>Target Spelling</i>, carry buckets of water in <i>Jack and Jill Spelling</i>, and more.
Stage Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Information registers in the brain through the senses. ❑ The more sensory pathways used to register information, the greater the probability for recall in the retrieval stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Kids participate in sensory activities to initially register spelling words. While each Spelling Stop focuses on a particular sensory system, multiple senses are incorporated into each activity. ❑ The program's sensory activities also stimulate the vestibular and proprioceptive sensory systems. When such sensory systems are not "awake," it is difficult to pay attention—even if there is interest.



	File the Information	Brain Highways Spelling
Stage Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Words must be filed in the pathway that is used for retrieval.□ The more images, associations, and retrieval cues, the easier access to stored information.□ Information that has been evaluated, analyzed, synthesized, and applied is remembered better than information acquired through rote learning.□ Discussing and sharing ideas helps to strengthen memory pathways more deeply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ The Long-Term Memory Spelling Stop shifts the previous focus from kinesthetic, tactile, and auditory pathways to the visual pathway. Such transfer is necessary because we use the visual pathways when writing words.□ Challenges such as drawing pictures of smaller words within a word (<i>Snapshot Spelling</i>) and transforming letters into pictures related to the word's definition (<i>Make-Over Spelling</i>) are examples of using images and associations when learning to spell.□ Challenges such as analyzing which letters are most likely to be victims of a crime (<i>Louie Ludoosky Spelling</i>) and using the letters of a word to create an original story (<i>Ten-Second Spelling Stories</i>) are examples of evaluating, analyzing, synthesizing and applying information when learning to spell.□ Challenges such as persuading others to replace a Top Ten Sammy Whammy Contender and working with a partner to earn spelling dollars are examples of discussing and sharing ideas in order to deepen the memory pathways of a spelling word.
Stage Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Successful retrieval is dependent on good encoding and filing in previous memory stages and optimal visual imagery skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ The activities in the Five Spelling Stops ensure that information is registered and filed—both with ease and success—so that retrieval is possible at a later date.□ The “Final Destination” includes exercises to improve visual imagery skills so that words are ultimately retrieved from the visual pathway.

Note that stress, boredom, and indifference can interfere with a person's ability to register, file, encode, and recall information. That's why Brain Highways Spelling activities are fresh, zany, and a whole lot of fun.