

Dear Parents,

Sitton Spelling is a spelling program that provides an alternative to word-list spelling. Some of the benefits of this program are listed below.

1. Basic skills and concepts

Benefit: Skills and concepts are restored! This increases teaching effectiveness and learning outcomes, because it is easier to help students discover a few well-chosen, research-based generalizations that can be applied to many words, than to teach "lists" of words, each one learned as a separate set of letters.

2. Spelling logic

Benefit: Students develop a foundation for learning to think about words. They become discriminating observers of words—their spellings, meanings, and use.

3. More words

Benefit: The activities develop hundreds of words beyond the words listed in a customary spelling unit. Research indicates that the more word experiences students have, the better prepared they are to think, speak, spell, read, and write.

4. Students' involvement

Benefit: Research on learning verifies that student involvement increases learning. The unit activities provide multiple opportunities for student involvement, as the teacher assumes the role of "facilitator."

5. Parent-child partnerships

Benefit: Studies of exemplary educational programs clearly provide evidence that parent involvement enhances student progress. Parent opportunities abound in this methodology, particularly with skill exercises—see "Parents as Partners."

6. Flexibility

Benefit: Opportunities for customized instruction and differentiated practice within any time frame is achieved through teachers' self-selection of activities from a wide menu of choices making teaching and learning easier and more effective.

7. A balanced program

Benefit: With extensive choices for skill-building, teachers can provide balance to a total communications curriculum—even as adopted reading and language materials change over time.

8. Increased test scores

Benefit: Students who understand the skills that govern spelling—those skills and concepts taught in this methodology—are better prepared to take spelling and word-skill achievement tests.

9. Writing fluency

Benefit: Students who have the words and skills for writing find it easier to write and often assume lead roles as adults in positions that require writing literacy.