

Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD-SKILL LITERACY.

Ask Rebecca

Dear Brandie,

Rebecca,

Why don't the skills taught in a Sourcebook unit relate to the Spelling Words?

Brandie Rondac
Second Grade

The skills taught and practiced in the Sourcebook units *cumulatively* provide students a foundation for relating to their Spelling Words. This occurs in the units' Build Skills and Word Experiences sections. Over time, these skills—recycled routinely—give students insights to help them make sense of the spellings for the words they missed.

Keep in mind the Spelling Words are *differentiated*. Students miss different words on their Cloze Story Word Tests. As a result, the skills they need to access for study are different. One student notices that his or her Spelling Word, *careful*,

has only one *l*—not a double letter at the end, and recalls a class activity in a previous unit on the addition of the *ful* suffix that addressed this. Another student accesses the strategy for using the correct *its/it's* taught and practiced earlier on—but now missed on the test.

When several students miss the same words, often teachers review these words as a class. A teacher might “think aloud” regarding the word *because* saying, “I like to remember the jingle: Big elephants can always use scrambled eggs. The first letter of each word tells me exactly how to spell *because*!” This mnemonic device for remembering the spelling of a tricky word is among several included in the Sourcebooks.

I'm guessing, Brandie, that you are new to your Level 2 Sourcebook. Soon the recycling of skills and words will become apparent to you. It's not so evident at first. You'll also begin to observe your students' progress using the skills and learning the words! It just happens. Keep up the good work, and wait and see!

Let me know your progress—I'm interested. We can work together to make every child a speller.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca".

Do you have a question? Call me at home or toll free at the office, send me an email, or set up a complimentary conference call for a group of colleagues who have questions. • email: rsitton@sittonspelling.com

• home phone: 480-473-7277 • office phone: toll free at 888-WE-SPELL (937-7355) or 480-596-5100