**Spelling Rules**

**Here are the first spelling rules that students should know.**

1. Every word has at least one vowel.
2. Every syllable has one vowel.
3. C can say /k/ or /s/. C says /s/ before an e, i, or y (*cent*, *city*, *cycle*). It says /k/ before everything else (*cat*, *clip*).
4. G can say /g/ or /j/. G may say /j/ before an e, i, or y (*gem*, *giant*, *gym*). It says /g/ before everything else (*garden*, *glad*).
5. Q is always followed by a u (*queen*).
6. Double the consonants f, l, and s at the end of a one-syllable word that has just one vowel (*stiff*, *spell*, *pass*).
7. To spell the sound of /k/ at the end of a word, we use ck or k. Use ck after a short vowel (*sick*). After everything else, use a k (*milk*).
8. Capitalize names.

**After your student has mastered the above spelling rules and applies them consistently, go on to this next set of rules.**

1. A, e, o, and u usually say their name at the end of a syllable (*a-pron*, *me*, *go*, *u-nit*).
2. Words do not end in v or j. We add a silent e at the end of the word (*have*).
3. Contractions replace letter(s) with an apostrophe to shorten a phrase (*I’ve* represents *I have*).
4. I and o may say /ī/ and /ō/ before two consonants (*kind*, *sold*). /j/ is spelled dge after a short vowel (*edge*).
5. Capitalize the names of places (*Canada*).