A closer look at spelling in the primary classroom by Grace Oakley & Janet Fellowes. Newtown, NSW: Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA), 2016. 372.632 OAK

This book "will help primary and pre-service teachers by providing them with understandings, based on research and theory, which would help them choose and use appropriate pedagogical strategies to teach spelling to students with diverse needs, including those from EAL/D backgrounds and those with difficulties and disabilities that impact on spelling." – Back cover.

Guiding thinking for effective spelling by Christine Topfer & Deirdre Arendt. 2nd ed. South Melbourne, Vic: Cengage Learning Australia, 2017. 372.632 TOP

"This comprehensive teacher resource explains practical ways to assess students' spelling needs and implement a consistent, supportive spelling approach across all primary levels. Chapters include ideas for developing a word-conscious classroom, guiding strategic thinking and actively recording learning through the use of Word Study Journals." – Back cover.

Audience: For teachers pre-F-Year 6.


This "series of seven books [is] designed to assist in the development of skills necessary to write in the ‘Foundation Handwriting’ style. These books follow a K-6 sequential program whose continuum follows NSW syllabus guidelines." – p. 2.


This series of four books (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) which can be borrowed individually contain "[a] variety of NAPLAN-style exercises and fun activities [which] will keep children engaged while improving their skills." – Publisher website.


"Just when India Wimple’s life is returning to normal after competing in the Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee, she’s invited to London for an international spelling showdown … But there is skulduggery afoot, with a series of mysterious mishaps … India and her friends are determined to find out who the culprit is and get the spelling bee back on track.” – Publisher website.

For teachers’ resources, please see the following website: https://www.penguin.com.au/content/resources/TR_MostMarvellousSpellingBee%20Mystery.pdf

Audience: For ages 8-12.


This series of seven books (F, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 – which can be borrowed individually) "has an emphasis on high frequency word use and syllabus sequenced phonics. Syllabus words reflecting the key learning areas are also included as are more difficult words for the better spellers." – Back cover.


"A knowledge of a few basic spelling principles can be beneficial to everyone, regardless of their spelling ability. Understanding the reasons for such spelling principles as doubling consonants like ‘t’, ‘s’, ‘p’, ‘t’, ‘m’ and ‘n’ or dropping the final ‘e’ before adding a suffix can help everyone improve their spelling … [This book] is designed as an easy reference guide to aid you when checking work." – Back cover.

Audience: For ages 9 to adult.

This guide includes “an overview of the fundamentals of English spelling; a focus on sound-letter relationships; a range of practical spelling strategies; … practice exercises with answers; reference section, including a spelling glossary, punctuation guide, homophones and specialist word lists.” – p. 2.

Audience: For secondary school and adult students.


“Rather than provide a complete A-Z spelling program, this book [the teacher’s book] offers a range of tools in the form of explanations, questions, activities and examples that teachers can select from according to the diverse needs of their students.” – Publisher’s website.

Note: There are two volumes, a teacher’s book and a student’s book, which can be borrowed separately.

Audience: For teachers of adults, but also applicable for young people.


“Spelling bridges the gap between knowledge accumulated from research on spelling acquisition and the practicalities of teaching spelling more effectively in schools … [It] contains practical suggestions on methods and activities applicable to all students, supplemented by specific advice on assessment, and links to additional resources.” – Back cover.

See also the Hot Topics guide: English spelling: Words their way for more spelling resources.