

What's In My Head

What is “What’s In My Head” and why is it important?

"What's In My Head" (Gaskins et al., 1989) is a strategy children can use to practice spelling words. It provides practice in writing words and recalling how they look in print.

How can I use “What’s In My Head” with my child?

With this strategy, your child tries to guess a word that you are thinking of based on clues that you give about the word. The word is selected from words with specific spelling patterns that have been previously introduced. You give your child five opportunities to guess the word. After each clue, your child writes a guess on a sheet of paper. If the first guess fits the next clue, your child can write the same word. If the clue fits another word, your child can write another word for his second guess. Your child cannot erase previous guesses and must write a word after each clue. The first clues are general and make it difficult to guess the word. Each clue narrows the choice. Putting all five clues together provides the correct answer by the final try. Following is an example of “What’s In My Head.”

<u>Clues</u>	<u>Child’s Guesses</u>
#1) The word has a spelling pattern that you are studying this week.	#1) beach
#2) The word is a one beat (syllable) word.	#2) beach
#3) The word is a need for growing plants.	#3) rain
#4) The word can be a part of a storm.	#4) rain
#5) The word rhymes with pain.	#5) rain

What's in My Head?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____