Linking the sound system with the written word

1. If you use their Paakantyi names a lot and the written form is clearly visible, the spelling/sound connections will stick. Call the roll in Paakantyi each lesson and get them to answer in language.
   • Make stand-up desk sign for students’ names in Paakantyi. Folded cardboard. Kids can illustrate them with a little drawing ‘about themselves’ – a football, a colour, an animal. Collect them at the end of each lesson and put them out each ‘desk’ lesson.
   • Also have a poster of names in Paakantyi on the wall with the little illustrations. Their names should be clearly written on their individual Paakantyi dictionaries and folders that they use each lesson.
   • Have a name label for the teacher(s), too.

2. Activity. When everyone gets their Paakantyi names, students use the name cards to practise one another’s names. Then practise using the circle in the following ways:
   • The teacher says a name in Paakantyi and throws a tennis ball or soft ball or soft toy to that person, who repeats their name. The teacher says another name and that student throws it to the name called, that person says their name, the teacher says another, student throws and so on until all have had several goes.
   • Then, throw a ball to a student, saying their name. He or she throws to another student, saying their name, who says another student’s name and throws – and so on, until everyone has spoken several times.

3. Posters. Once a new set of words or structures have been practised orally, leave them ‘posted’ in written form in the classroom, or on the wall, or as labelled objects or pictures so that students can ‘check in’ during subsequent speaking and writing activities.

4. Flashcards. All the language the students will be learning, and that the teacher will be using, should be on flashcards. These could be large cards for learning, along with sets of small cards for learning games. And use picture cards for all vocabulary – animals, actions, body parts – with a picture on one side, word(s) on the other.