

## **CHILDREN'S EFFORTS SPELLED MONEY**

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I was privileged on Saturday, 22 September to officially open the UNICEF Week in Chester by welcoming 75 young people to the first day of a Sponsored Spell to raise money. I was humbled to see six to fifteen year olds who at 8am on a rather cold Saturday morning had turned out of bed, not to take part in a picnic or a visit to the seaside, or to play their favourite sport, but to spend a day learning spellings, so that they could have all the words correct to raise lots of money. Their reason for being there? – because other children are much worse off than they are and need help.

Whole families were involved, like the mother and two daughters I met. On the Monday, students from European, Asian, American and African nationalities were engaged in the same activity – though these were all students on a year long EFL course at West Cheshire College.

The Sponsored Spell was the brain-child of Alan Davies, a lecturer at West Cheshire College, who has devised a new system of teaching literacy, particularly for foreign students. It was a major organisational task, and I am sure UNICEF owe him a lot. Of course, I am delighted to add my name to the thanks, and hope that business people all over Chester will sponsor these spellers.

Councillor Pamela Hayward  
Chairman of Cheshire County Council  
County Hall, Chester