



Supporting Your Child At Home

with



This leaflet contains tips and ideas for helping your child learn spellings in a fun and purposeful way.

- ✓ *Making spelling fun*
- ✓ *Using strategies for spelling*
- ✓ *Applying spellings to writing.*

How can I make learning spellings more fun?



Sliders

Cut two slits in the centre of some A4 card and insert a strip through the centre with some words on. As you pull the strip it will reveal and hide different words.

Matching pairs

Find matching pairs of words with a spelling pattern in. E.g. train/rain

Word painting

Draw the word in chalk and brush over it with a wet paintbrush. Try writing your word in shaving foam outside on the patio or writing it on the bathroom mirror at bathtime.



Words within words

Look to see if you can see a small word inside your word. E.g. where, friend.

Look, say, cover, visualise, write, check

- ✓ Look at the word
- ✓ Say it out loud
- ✓ Cover the word
- ✓ Visualise the word (imagine a picture of it in your head)
- ✓ Write the word from memory

Hangman

Play hangman with a partner, using the words you are learning.

Jumbled letters

Write your word on paper, cut each letter and put the word back together.



Rainbow words



Break the word down into syllables and write each part in a different colour.

Word shape

Draw around the shape of the word and try to remember the shape the word made.

has had
going

Tracing

Write your word down 3 times and trace over it in different colours.

Musical spellings

Make up a short rhyme or song to remember spellings or rules for spellings.






Internet games

Search online for word games to practise words.



Rhymes and pictures

Use rhymes or pictures to go with words to help them remember.

1. You **hear** with your **ear** 
2. The word separate has "a rat" in it (**sepa****rate**). 
3. Donkeys, monkeys - There are **keys** in **donkeys** and **monkeys**. 
4. The word here is also in its opposite **there**.
5. Villain - A **villain** is someone who lives in a **villa**.

Spelling tennis

One person starts with a letter, the other adds one until a word is made. The last person to add a letter wins.



Spell jumps

Jump up and down on a trampoline or skip whilst saying each letter of your word you are spelling.



Mnemonic

Write a mnemonic to remind you of the spelling. The first letter of each word in the sentence spells the word.

E.g **where**: **w**hat **h**as **e**veryone **r**eally **e**aten?



because: **b**ig **e**lephants **c**an **a**lways **u**nderstand **s**mall **e**lephants



Spelling should be improved using a **multi-sensory approach**.



A **ten minute** daily session of spelling games can be a more effective way of helping children remember patterns than relying on a once a week spelling bash. Within a ten minute session, you could play two/three spelling games. Focus on words and patterns that they need or find difficult.

Right from Wrong:  

Write down two or three ways of spelling a word, one of which is correct. Eg: wos woz was whas

Ask your child to write down the one they think is accurate. Focus on words that they often misspell. Discuss different ways that they can use to remember the spelling. How will they remember them?

Rhyme it:  


This game is good because it tunes children into listening carefully to the sounds in a word. Being able to spell by analogy (If I can spell 'sick' then I can probably spell 'stick') is a tactic that most of us use – probably without knowing it.

Give your child a word – eg. feet. Ask them to come up with as many rhyming words as they can in 30 seconds. They will need to think about the spelling as they write them down. Of course here there is a choice between 'ee', 'ea', or 'e consonant e' (sleet, meat, seat, treat, wheat, heat, complete, etc..)

Speedwrite:



This game helps children to spell a word through kinaesthetic learning. It is a simple enough idea, but the technique has proved to be very effective.

- Choose a word that is of interest or causing concern. Look at the word together considering different ways it could be learned – maybe there is a useful rhyme, perhaps it follows a pattern, could there be a mnemonic to help you remember it?
- Once you have considered ways to recognise it, ask your child to write down the word as many times as possible within 1 minute. (with the correct spelling) This is most powerful if they use joined up handwriting because the hand eventually learns the pattern of a word.
Eg. *would* 

Word ladders:

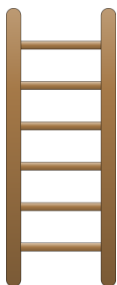


This is an excellent word-building activity and can be a useful way of developing vocabulary and improving spelling.

- First decide whether the word ladder will be general or themed – you could use any words or go for a specific category (which is harder.)
- The aim of the game is to make a list of words within 1 minute. Players do this by making sure that the last letter of each word becomes the first of the new word. Eg.

general ladder

cat
tap
pan
newt
time



animal ladder

lion
newt
tiger
rabbit
turtle

Strategies for learning to spell

Lots of children learn in different ways which is why teaching them means using a range of approaches. This will also help them when applying spelling because they will see the word in different contexts. Here are some strategies for spelling:

- ✓ Listening for the sounds and breaking them down*
- ✓ Breaking a word into syllables*
- ✓ Using rhymes, mnemonics and songs to remember*
- ✓ Using visual approaches e.g. 'word shape', 'bubble writing'*
- ✓ Being multi-sensory e.g. 'word painting'*
- ✓ Using verbal and social games e.g. 'spelling tennis'*
- ✓ Using kinaesthetic and physical games e.g. 'spell jump'*

Applying spellings

How can I make sure they write spellings correctly in their writing?

As well as engaging in all the fun activities suggested, it is still important to put the words into sentences for your child. This puts the word into context and also gets them to apply the spelling within writing rather than just in a 'list of words.'



What if my child forgets their words after a few weeks?

Encourage your child to make a list of spellings they often forget and help them to keep looking back at them. Your child needs to know that learning spellings isn't just for the day of the test but it is for when writing too.



Remember that your child's class teacher will be happy to help and answer any more questions!

