

## Practising Spellings At Home

It is really important that parents and carers are involved in helping children to learn their spellings. Confidence in spelling allows children to write more freely and imaginatively.

You should practise your spellings for about 10 minutes EVERY day.

Here are some games or ideas you could use. Why not try a different one each night to keep it fun and interesting.

Remember everyone learns by;

doing it, seeing it, saying it, writing/drawing it, listening to it so making sure you have variety of games and tasks, is a great way to ensure the learning sticks!

### 1. Look, Cover, Write, Check

Ask your child to look at the word and the letters in the word. Cover the word up and let them try to write it down. Allow your child to check against the original spelling to see if they have spelled it correctly. Repeat with other words.

### 2. Air Writing

Ask your child to write the word in the air in front of them. This will also help your child to practise letter formation.

### 3. Word Shape

Look for the shape the word makes. For example apple.

apple

### 4. Adult Testing

Read out each word in turn. Leave a gap between each word while your child writes the word. At the end of the list of words, mark **with your child** looking at where they have made mistakes. Try this in order and mixed up.

### 5. Child Marking

The same as adult testing but ask your child to mark their work carefully **themselves**. This will allow them to identify the tricky words.

### 6. Patterns in Words

Look for patterns in the words with your child such as groups of letters that are repeated. For example the following words all have 'ea' in the middle - meat, beat, cheat, bleat. Use a felt tip to underline the letter patterns in each word.

## 7. How Many Words?

Find a pattern in the words - like 'ea' above. Write down the first letters and the pattern for each word. Ask your child to fill in the missing letters. E.g. meat, beat, cheat, bleat.

mea  
bea  
c ea  
b ea

## 8. Words within Words

Look for words within the spelling. This works particularly well with longer words. For example grandchildren.

grandchildren  
grand  
ran  
an  
and  
child  
children

## 9. Individual Letter Marking

When marking the word score one point for each letter correct. For example learning the word blue.

bloo            blu            blue  
✓✓xx        ✓✓xx        ✓✓✓✓

## 10. Know the Tricky Words

In every spelling test there is normally one or two words that are particularly tricky to spell. Work out which words these are with your child and work extra hard to learn these.

## 11. Learn a Mnemonic

Learn a mnemonic to help you learn tricky words. For example because.

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

## 12. Rainbow writing

Once the word is written in pencil or pen, go over the word in a different colour (felt tips or coloured pencils), then another and another, until it becomes really emboldened.

### **13. Word Search**

Create your own word searches using your spelling words. Or Google "puzzle maker" to find a web based version.

### **14. Media Search**

Using a newspaper or magazine you have 15 minutes to look for your spelling words. Circle them in different coloured crayon. Which of your spellings words was used the most times?

### **15. Shaving Cream Practice**

An easy way to clean those dirty tables is to finger paint on them with shaving cream. Squirt some on the table (with your parent's permission and supervision!) and then practice spelling your words by writing them with your finger in the shaving cream.

### **16. Salt Box Spelling**

Ask your parents pour salt into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) and then practice writing you spellings in it with your finger.

### **17. Scrabble Spelling**

Find the letters you need to spell you words and then mix them up in the bag. Get your parents to time you unscrambling your letters. For extra maths practice you could find out the value of each of you words.

### **18. Pyramid Power**

Sort your words into a list from easiest to hardest. Write the easiest word at the top of the page near the middle. Write the next easiest word twice underneath. Write the third word three times underneath again until you have built your pyramid

### **19. Ransom Note**

Cut the letters needed to for your words from a newspaper or magazine and glue them down to spell the words.

### **20. Spell It with Beans**

Use Lima beans (or any dried beans or lentils) to spell out your words. If you glue them onto separate pieces of card then you made a great set of flash cards to practice with for the rest of the week.

### **21. Pipe Cleaners**

Shape them into your spelling words.

### **22. Tasty Words**

Just like above, but this time try and find tasty things to spell your words with, like raisins. Then when you spell them right you get to eat them!

### **23. Design A Word**

Pick one word and write it in bubble letters. Colour in each letter in a different pattern.

### **24. Sign Your Word**

Practice spelling your words by signing each letter. Go online to see how to finger spell in sign language.

### **25. Water wash**

Use a paintbrush and water to write your words outside on concrete or pavements.

### **26. ABC Order**

Write your words out in alphabetical order. Then write them in reverse alphabetical order.

### **27. Story Time**

Write a short story using all your words. Don't forget to check your punctuation!

### **28. Simple Sentence**

Write a sentence for each of your words. Remember each sentence must start with a capital letter and end with a full stop.

### **29. Colourful Words**

Use two different coloured pens to write your words: one to write the consonants and one to write the vowels. Do this a couple of times then write a line of the spelling with the whole word in one colour, followed by another colour as we do in class. The alternating colour gives a very strong visual image.

### **30. Memory Game**

Make pairs of word cards. Turn them all over and mix them up. Flip over two cards, if they match you get to keep them, if not you have to turn them over again. Try and match all the pairs.

### **31. Finger Tracing**

Use your finger to spell out each of your words on your mum or dad's back. Then it's their turn to write the words on your back for you to feel and spell.

### **32. Spelling Steps**

Write your words as if they were steps, adding one letter each time. (It's much easier doing this on squared paper)

### **33. Scrambled Words**

Write your words then write them again with all the letters mixed up.

### **34. X-Words**

Find two of your spelling words with the same letter in and write them so they criss cross.

### **35. Ambidextrous**

Swap your pen into the hand that you don't normally write with. Now try writing out your spellings with that hand.

### **36. Telephone Words**

Translate your words into numbers from the telephone keypad.

### **37. Secret Agent**

Write out the alphabet, then give each letter a different number from 1 to 26. (a = 1, b = 2, c = 3 ect.) Now you can spell out your words in secret code.

### **38. Missing Letters**

Ask your mum or dad to write out one of your words loads of times on piece of paper, but each time they have to miss out a letter or two. Then you have to fill in the missing letters. After you have checked them all try it again with another word.

### **39. Listen Carefully**

Ask your parents to spell out one of your words then you have to say what the word is they've spelt out.

### **40. Acrostic**

Use words that start with each letter in you spelling word. Your more likely to remember it if it makes sense!

I hope you find this list gives you plenty of ideas that will make learning spelling less of a chore for your children, and more successful in the long run!

Remember, that regardless of when you receive your spellings or when your weekly test is, 10 MINUTES work every day is better than an hour the night before...

If you need any help of advice on any of the above then please don't hesitate to come and see me.

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