

Parent's Guide to Spelling



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 e.g. 'spelling tennis'
- √ Kinaesthetic and physical e.g. 'spell jump'

How Can You Make Spelling More Fun?

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 (separate).
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 one who lives in a villa.

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.

Rainbow words

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

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: what has everyone really eaten?

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With spelling flashcards:

- Pairs: Create a double set of the words your child is finding tricky. Pick up two cards at a time until they find a pair. Can they verbally spell it out to you?
- Flip, Read, Letters and Write: Your child can learn their spellings in four quick steps. Have the child flip over a card, read it, spell out the letters and then write it down.
- Look, cover, write, check: Fold a piece of paper into three columns and label (like our spelling FOLDERS). Write the word in the first column and have your child look in detail at the letters and shapes. Cover the first column by folding it back. Next, get them to copy the word in the next column. Finally, check the word by unfolding the paper. Fold again and repeat with the final column. Do one set each day, not all at once.
- Pocket Cards: Make small cards to keep in your pocket or bag and when you are walking to school, making breakfast or sitting in the park, ask the children to spell the words to you.

With Pen, Pencil, Marker and Paper:

- Spelling Word Race: Create two teams with a player from each team taking the 'pen' at a time. Someone calls out the word and the two players race to write the word first.
- Stairs: Write the words as if they are stairs, adding one letter each time: S, Sp, Spe, Spel, Spell
- Tic-Tac-Toe: This game is a favourite of the children's and is often best known as noughts and crosses. Using the spelling words the child needs to make three in a row of the words spelt correctly. They can compete with you or a friend.
 - Paint, chalk or water: If you have any chalk (and don't mind getting your patio a bit messy) get the child to write the words on the ground and then the rain will wash it away. Use water and a paintbrush to water paint the spelling words. On a hot sunny day the words disappear quickly so they need to paint fast!
 - Multi-sensory: Children can write in anything with their finger to help develop the patterns of words. Write in condensation, run your finger through a tray of rice, sand or soapy bubbles. Be imaginative!

With A Computer or Tablet:

Spelling City: Head over to the website and have your child type in the spelling words by playing a range of fun games. <http://www.spellingcity.com> There are four free games to play on the opening page.

Type it out: Open up a document to type on. Call out the word for the child to spell. They can then play around with the word: increase the font size, change the colour etc.