

Helping Your Child to Learn New Spellings

When your child brings words home from school to learn, find out the best strategies for **him/her** when learning spellings. His/her preferred method may be different to the method you would choose to learn spellings yourself. The aim is to make the learning of spellings as fun as possible. Here are some suggestions:

Magic Spelling:

Write the word out quite large on a piece of card/paper (flashcard size). Hold up/stick on the wall to the top left of your child's vision. He/she has to smile (that's what makes the magic work!), look at the word and say it. Get him/her to close his/her eyes. Can he/she still see the word (in their mind)? Let him/her have 1 more look. Then check, getting him/her to tick each letter that was right. Repeat until the word is spelled correctly.

Spelling Mnemonics:

Create a spelling rhyme/mnemonic, using each letter as the start of a word. Eg

big
elephants
can't
always
understand
small
elephants

Tricky Bits:

Write the word on a sheet of paper. Together identify the tricky part of the word (usually the bit that can't be sounded out). **Your child may in practice be finding a different bit difficult to remember, so use his/her mistakes to inform this.** Put a circle around the tricky bit and talk about ways you could remember this bit. This could involve writing the word out with the tricky bit in another colour/bigger or pronouncing the word in a different way eg Wed-nes-day

Spelling Doodles:



Make a spelling doodle with the words that need to be learnt. Draw a **simple** outline of anything using a pencil. Your child uses a coloured pen/pencil to write the word(s) repeatedly around the outline (see below).

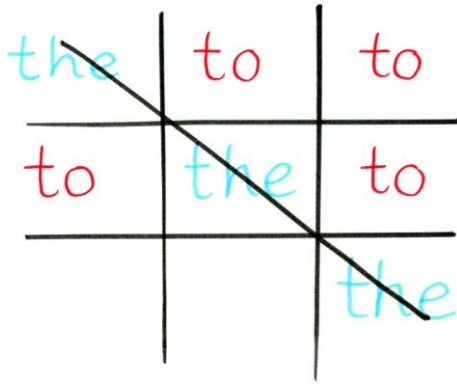
Magnetic/Foam Letter Fishing:

Pick out all the magnetic letters needed to make the words on the list that week. Drop them in a sink/bath/bucket of water. Call out a word and get your child to fish for the letters they need. Make the word on the counter top/floor/edge of bath. You could use a similar process with special bath letters at bath time (if you have them).

Patio Writing:

Follow the procedure for magic spelling, but write the word on the patio/driveway/house wall using a paintbrush and water.

'Tic, Tac, Toe' :



This is played in the same way as 'Noughts and Crosses', but you use words instead of the symbols (see below). Your child takes the word he/she most needs to practise as his/her symbol and you take a different one. **NB If children aren't used to playing noughts and crosses, you may need to do that with them first, so they understand the purpose and tactics of the game!**

Rainbow Words:



Write one of the words out large on a piece of paper. Get your child to write over the word several times, using a different colour each time. After four/five times of writing over the top he/she will end up with a 'rainbow word'. Each time your child should say the name of the word before he/she starts writing and the **name** of the letters as they are written eg 'was' w-a-s

Singing Words:

Say the word, followed by the **names** of the letters eg 'The is t-h-e'. Think of a tune you could set this to eg This is sing to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star:

'Were is w-e-r-e
There is t-h-e-r-e'

Earth/Sand Words:

Follow the procedure for magic spelling above, but get your child to write the word in the earth in the garden using a stick. This could also be done in a sandpit, if you have one.

Hiding Words:

Look for known words hiding inside other words. Eg:

w h e n