

Practising spelling at home

Confidence in spelling allows children to write more freely and imaginatively.

Your help can make a **big** difference. Practising spellings over and over again helps children to remember how to spell words.

Make sure that your child knows how to use the words. Say a sentence containing the word. Then ask your child to say their own sentence with the word in it.

Types of word

Words can be divided into regular and irregular spellings.

Regular words are the words with a shared spelling pattern that can be learnt using phonics. For example:

boat

goat

coat

float

When you practise regular words with your child:

- Talk to them about the words and identify the pattern

- Encourage them to highlight or underline the pattern
- Encourage them to say the sounds as they spell the words

Irregular words

Irregular words are the words that don't follow the spelling rules. They are sometimes called common exception words, tricky words or red words. For example:

- was
- said
- people
- because

When you practise irregular words with your child:

- Explain to them that these words are different, they cannot be learnt using letter sounds
- Examine the word together, ask them to highlight the tricky bit in the word
- Practising in a different colour or with a different pen may help your child to remember which words are irregular.

Spelling at home

- Only spend time on spelling if you are both in the mood to do it
- It doesn't need to take long

- 5 to 10 minutes several times a week is better than one long session

Ask the SENCo or class teacher for advice if:

- You or your child are not enjoying it, practice should not be stressful for you both
- You think the words are too difficult for your child
- Your child is finding it hard to learn the words despite lots of practise
- You would like to know more about how ICT can be used to help your child with spelling at home and school

For more ideas:

There is a short webinar for parents available through this link:

Helping children with spelling

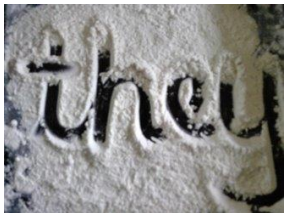
<https://youtu.be/hGr4N5ArWkM>



Spelling the Fun Way


Everyone learns in different ways by: doing it, seeing it, saying it, writing/drawing it, listening to it. Make sure you have a variety of games and tasks to help your child remember their spellings. Here are some games and ideas that you could use.

- Air spelling - choose a spelling word. Say it. Use your finger to 'write' it in the air. Underline it and say it again.
- Ask questions about it e.g. 'What is the first letter', 'How many letters' etc.
- Write the words in different ways,
 - Write it big
 - Write it small
 - Write it with the other hand
 - Write it with eyes closed
 - With different pens and in different colours
- Salt or sand tray spelling -pour a layer of salt in a tray and spell words in the salt.



- Letter jumble - use magnetic, wooden or scrabble letters. Find the letters needed for a word and mix them up. Ask your child to put them in the right order



- Spell words using letters cut from a magazine.
- Tasty Words - spell the words using raisins (eat if correct!).
- Water Wash - Use a paintbrush and water to write words outside on concrete. 
- Chalk challenge - write the words on the pavement outside
- Mnemonics - For words that are causing difficulties, teach a mnemonic or make up your own. For example;
because: big elephants can't always understand small elephants.
- Say the word as it looks, e.g. Wednesday.
- Draw an outline around the shape of a word.

Specialist Teaching Services

Helping Your Child with

Spelling