

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.

Remember everyone learns by:

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

Here are some games or ideas you could use.

Why not try a different one each night to keep it fun and interesting?

1) Word Search:

Create your child's own word searches using the week's spelling words. Or use this link to get your computer to do it for you. <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker/>

2) Code Words:

Encourage your child to come up with a code for each letter of the alphabet. Write down the code. Then your child can write the spelling words in code. They must write the actual spelling word next to the "code word."

3) Air spelling:

Choose a spelling word. Encourage your child to write the word in the air slowly with an index finger, saying each letter. Remind your child that you need to be able to 'see' the letters they have written in the air. When they have finished writing the word, tell them to underline it and say the word again. Now ask questions about the word. For example, you could ask them: 'What is the first letter?' 'What is the last letter?' 'How many letters are there?' and so on.

4) Media Search:

Using an old newspaper or magazine give your child 15 minutes to look for their spelling words. Circle them in different coloured crayon. Ask them which words were used the most times?

5) 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 supervision!) and then ask your child to practise spelling their words by writing them with a finger in the shaving cream.

6) Salt Box Spelling:

Pour salt into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) and then ask your child to practise writing their spellings in it with a finger.

7) Scrabble Spelling: Get your child to find the letters they need to spell their words and then mix them up in the bag. Time your child unscrambling their letters to re-spell the words. For extra maths practice, they could find out the value of each of their words.

8) Pyramid Power:

Encourage your child to sort their words into a list from easiest to hardest. Write the easiest word near the centre at the top of the page. Write the next easiest word twice underneath. Write the third word three times underneath and keep going until they have built their pyramid. E.g.

the

you you

then then then

They could try using different colours for each word to make a rainbow pyramid.

9) Ransom Note:

Ask your child to cut the letters needed for their words from a newspaper or magazine and glue them down to spell the words.

10) Pipe Cleaners or Toothpicks:

These are just a couple of suggestions of things you could use for making your spelling words.

11) Spell It with Beans:

Ask your child to use any dried beans or lentils to spell out the words. Help them to glue them onto separate pieces of card then you will have made a great set of flash cards to practise with for the rest of the week.

12) Tasty Words:

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

13) Design A Word:

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

14) Sign Your Word:

Encourage your child to practice spelling their words by signing each letter. To see the British Sign Language Alphabet, Google 'British Sign Language'.

15) Water wash:

Let your child use a paintbrush and water to write their words outside on concrete or pavements.

16) Colourful Words:

Ask your child to use two different coloured pens to write their words: one to write the consonants and one to write the vowels. Do this a couple of times then write the whole word in one colour.