



# Practising Spellings

It is really important that parents are involved in helping children to learn their spellings. Confidence in spelling allows children to write more freely and imaginatively. Ideally, you should practise your spellings for 5-10 minutes EVERY day.

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

Here are some games or ideas you could use. You may not like all of them and some will be more appropriate for your child than others, but try a few and see how it works. Why not try a different one each night to keep it fun and interesting?

- 1) Word search: Create your own word searches using your spelling words or use this link to get your computer to do it for you:  
<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>
- 2) Draw your words on Lite-Brite:  
<http://www.sfpq.com/animation/liteBrite.html#%7CHERE>
- 3) Air spelling: Choose a spelling word. With your index finger write the word in the air slowly, say each letter. Your parent needs to remind you that you need to be able to 'see' the letters you have written in the air. When you have finished writing the word, underline it and say the word again. Now get your parents to ask you questions about the word. For example they could ask 'What is the first letter?' 'What is the last letter?' 'How many letters are there?' etc.
- 4) Media search: Using a newspaper or magazine, you have 15 minutes to look for your spelling words. Circle them in different coloured pencils. Which of your spellings words was used the most times?
- 5) Shaving foam practice: Squirt some foam on the table (with supervision and permission from your parent!) and practice spelling your words in the foam with your finger.
- 6) Salt box spelling: Ask your parents to pour salt into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) and then practice writing your spellings in it with your finger.
- 7) Scrabble spelling: Find the letters you need to spell your 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 your words!
- 8) 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 and so on until you have built your pyramid.
- 9) Ransom note: Cut the letters needed to for your words from a newspaper or magazine and glue them down to spell the words.
- 10) Spell It With Beans: Use dried pulses to spell out your words. If you glue them on to separate pieces of card then you will make a great set of flash cards to practise with for the rest of the week.
- 11) Pipe cleaners/tooth picks: These are just a couple of suggestions of things you could use to form your spelling words.
- 12) Tasty words: Just like above but this time try and find tasty things to spell your words with, like raisins. When you spell them right, you get to eat them!

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- 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: Practice spelling your words by signing each letter.
- 15) Water wash: Use a paintbrush and water to write your words outside on concrete or pavement.
- 16) ABC order: Write your words out in alphabetical order. Then write them in reverse alphabetical order.
- 17) Story time: Write a short story using all your words. Don't forget to check your punctuation!
- 18) Simple sentence: Write a sentence for each of your words.
- 19) 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 the whole word in one colour.
- 20) 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.
- 21) 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.
- 22) Spelling Steps: Write your words as if they were steps, adding one letter each time. (It's much easier doing this on squared paper.)
- 23) Scrambled Words: Write your words then write them again with all the letters mixed up.
- 24) X-words: Find two of your spelling words containing the same letter and write them so they criss-cross.
- 25) Ambidextrous: Swap your pen into the hand that you don't normally write with. Now try writing out your spellings with that hand.
- 26) Telephone words: Translate your words into numbers from the telephone keypad.
- 27) Secret agent: Write out the alphabet and then give each letter a different number from 1 to 26 (a = 1, b = 2, c = 3 etc). Now you can spell out your words in secret code.
- 28) Missing letters: Ask your mum or dad to write out one of your words several times on piece of paper, each time missing 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.
- 29) Listen carefully: Ask your parents to spell out one of your words. You have to say what word is they have spelt out.
- 30) Acrostic: Make a phrase that uses words starting with each letter in your spelling word. You're more likely to remember it if it makes sense!



Spelling practice  
doesn't have to  
be B-O-R-I-N-G