



Supporting your child at home with spelling

Spot the Word

Challenge your child to find their target words in other places around them, for example:



- On a road sign
- In a magazine or newspaper
- On television
- On the side of a cereal box



Make the Word

Encourage younger children to make their target words out of different materials. These could include:

- Magnetic letters
- Large letters from magazines or newspapers
- Pipe cleaners
- Plasticine
- Jumble the letters up for your child to rearrange



Word Posters

Encourage your child to write their target words using different writing materials, such as:

- Felt tip pens
- Paints
- Chalks
- Sticks in sand
- Different coloured pens joined together to create rainbow letters

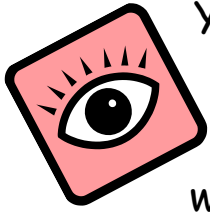


Alphabetical Order



Ask your child to write their target words in alphabetical order. You can help them by providing a copy of the alphabet or a simple dictionary. Increase the challenge by setting a time limit!

Look-Say-Cover-Write-Check



Your child should:

- **Look** at the new word closely, spotting the shape of the word, the order of letters, any smaller words contained within a larger word, familiar letter patterns etc
- **Say** the word quietly to themselves while they look at it
- **Cover** the word or fold the paper back so the word cannot be seen
- **Write** the word from memory
- **Check** answer, repeat if necessary



Mnemonics

Mnemonics are silly sentences that your child can make up and then learn. By thinking of the sentence, they'll remember how to spell a difficult word. Here are some examples:



- BECAUSE - Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants
- NECESSARY/SUCCESSFUL - if your child cannot remember how many Cs or Ss to use, remember this saying: One collar and two socks are NECESSARY but you will need two collars and two socks to be SUCCESSFUL
- 'No English word can end in 'j', this is a rule you

must obey.'

Help your child to make up mnemonics for any target words that they are struggling with. They could draw pictures to go with them.

Backwards Words

Write each of your words forwards and backwards.



Example:

Where erehW



Hidden Words

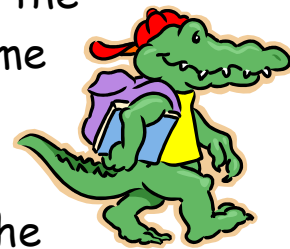
This is a game that you can prepare yourself. Write your child's target words, hidden in a series of letters. Once they are hidden, ask your child to find them. For example:

- shflplayknw
- gartwantlaj

You could circle the hidden words with coloured pens. To raise the challenge, you could set a time limit e.g how many words can you find in a minute?

Word Snap

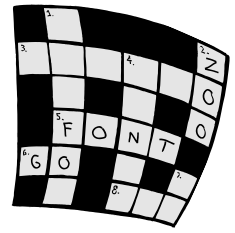
Help your child to write each of their target words onto a small piece of coloured card or paper. Make two sets of the words. Shuffle them up and then deal between the players. Keeping the words face down, take in turns to deal one card at a time and place it on the table. When two of the same words are turned over, one after the other, the player who spots this shouts 'snap' and wins the two cards. At the end of the game, the player with the most pairs of matching words is the winner.



An alternative to this game, is to place both sets of cards out on the table face down. Take it in turns to choose two cards to turn over. If the pair matches you can keep it, if not place the cards back down on the table and the next player chooses two cards. (This is also a very good memory game as the players must try to remember which words they have already seen and placed back down).

Crosswords

Challenge children to produce a crossword puzzle, using their target words. Provide them with a blank grid and a dictionary. This will help them to write the clues. You can then answer the crossword, and check it together.



Shannon's Game

This is a step up from a game of hangman. Without telling your child which one, choose one of the words from the spelling list. Draw dashes on to a piece of paper, one dash for every letter in the word. (To make it easier you could add the first letter to help). Your child then has to guess the next letter - without looking at their list. If they are correct you write in the next letter. If they are incorrect, you draw the first part of the hangman (as an alternative you could draw a flower). Your child has to guess the whole word before the drawing is completed.

Syllabification

This will help your child's spelling by teaching them a strategy to use. It works by splitting the words into parts, called syllables. Every syllable must have a vowel in it. You can check how many syllables a word has by clapping it out. Here are some examples:



- Four-teen
- Card-i-gan
- Be-cause

Secret Agent

Number the alphabet from 1-26. Example: a=1, b=2, c=3, d=4, etc. Then convert your words to a number code.

You must write the actual spelling word next to the "code word."



Make a Wordsearch

Make a wordsearch using a grid of all your spelling words. Come back and find your words.

Words within Words

Write each spelling word and then write at least two words made from the same letters.

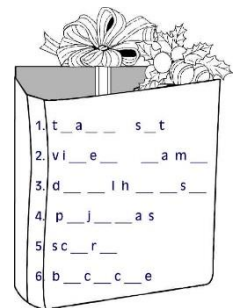
Example: slide

lid lie slid

lids lies

Words without Consonants

Write your spelling words on a list, but replace all the consonants with a line. Then go back to the beginning of your list and see if you can fill in the correct missing consonants.



Spelling Flashcards

Make a set of flashcards to practice your spelling words. When you look at your flashcard, read the word and then spell it out loud.

**Example-* there t-h-e-r-e.



Headlines

Cut letters out of magazines and newspapers to spell your words. Paste them onto a piece of paper.



Rainbow words

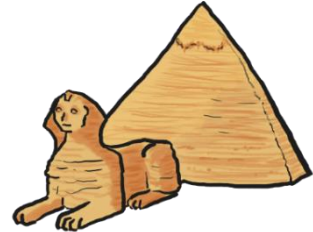
Write your spelling word and trace over it 5 times using a different colour each time.



Pyramid Writing

Pyramid write your spelling words. Example:
home

h
ho
hom
home



Acrostic Poems

Create an acrostic poem for 5 of your words. Example: snow



Soft and fluffy
Never warm
Open the door
Wade into the cold

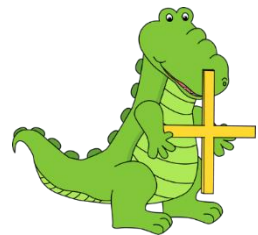
Adding my words

Write each of your spelling words out. Add up the value of each letter.

Consonants = 10 Vowels = 5

E.g. said

$$10 + 5 + 5 + 10 = 30$$



Silly Sentences

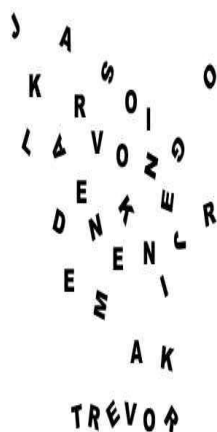
This activity can be great fun. Talk to your child about what a sentence is and then challenge them to write a sentence using as many of the words from a spelling list as possible.



Finding Words within Words

Your child can remember to spell tricky words by spotting smaller words within them. Encourage them to mark the smaller words with bright pens. This can be even more helpful by making up a short sentence to help your child remember the spelling. For example:

island is land - an island is land surrounded by water



Scrambled Words

Fold a piece of paper three times. Write your words in the first column. Then write them again with the letters all mixed up (scrambled) in the second column. Come back later to unscramble your words. Write the unscrambled words in the third column.



Air Write!

Write your spelling words in the air using your finger. Ask someone to read your words as you write them OR have them air write and you read them.

Bubble Letters

Write each of your spelling words in bubble letters. Then, colour them in.

