

# Practising spellings at home

## How can I help?



Everyone learns their spellings differently, but here are some ways you can aid your child if they are finding it difficult to spell new words.

- 1 If your child enjoys singing, try singing the letters of the word whenever appropriate. The melody of the song will help the spelling stay in your child's head.



- 2 Give your child a highlighter pen and ask them to highlight the part of a word that is difficult. You may be able to spot patterns in what they are struggling with.



- 3 Try sounding words out rather than writing them out. Some children find it easier to visualise words and are able to tell you the spelling but not necessarily write it down immediately.

- 4 Write each spelling on a sticky note and stick them on a mirror, or somewhere that will be seen most days. The child does not necessarily have to focus intently on the words every day, but seeing them in passing regularly may help the child to remember the spellings.

- 5 Use a 'look, cover, write, check' method: write out the list of problematic words in a column and allow your child to study them. Turn or fold the paper and ask your child to try to rewrite each word correctly (they can look back if they forget the order of the words). Once they have rewritten the words, the child should check these against the original list. Even if they are all correct the first time, it helps to repeat this process so that the spellings are committed to memory long term.



Use each word in a silly sentence. The sillier the sentence, the more memorable. Underline the spelling word in each sentence.	Write out the words on the computer. Use different fonts and different colours for the different letters.	Write a sentence or short paragraph that contains every single one of your words.
Make up a code for your words e.g. A=1, B=2 and so on. See if someone else can crack your code.	Write each word and incorporate it into a silly picture. For example, if one of the words is 'thumb' draw a hand with the word itself instead of the thumb.	Make a mini-dictionary. Sort the words into alphabetical order then write them out with a definition next to each one. For a challenge, see if you can also say whether each word is a noun, verb, adjective etc.
Play charades with the words. When each one is guessed, spell it.	Make a word search with your words and list them underneath.	Write out the letters in the words with different coloured felt-tips or pencil crayons.
Paint your words onto paper, write them in water with a big brush onto the outside wall of the house, or write them on the ground with coloured chalks.	Play hangman with a partner, using your words.	Ask your helper to write your words as anagrams (mixing up the letters) Can you work out which one is which?

Your child will have their own favourites, but experiment with a variety of strategies so that learning the spellings is part of a game rather than a chore.