

Spelling Support: Games to Play at Home

A Guide for Parents

Being able to spell correctly is an essential part of your child's learning. Throughout their school life, your child will continually have to practise a variety of spelling rules, which will often be set as home learning. The traditional method to learn spellings is to write them out several times using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method. Although this can be an effective method, it can sometimes be tedious for a child after a long day at school. Below you will find a list of suggested games that can be used to learn spellings in a variety of ways. By using different, fun methods to learn spellings, you will be helping your child to retain and master the spelling of those words.

Lily Pad Spellings

A fun and physical way to reinforce target spellings. Write all the letters of the alphabet on pieces of paper or sticky notes and lay them out (in any order) on the floor like lily pads on a pond. You could even use <http://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-w-3226-a-z-alphabet-on-lily-pads>. Say a word for your child to spell and they then have to step from one letter to the next spelling out the word correctly. If he or she gets a letter wrong, pause at the incorrect letter and remind him or her of what letter should come next. Then, start again from the beginning of the word.

This can be made into a game by giving a point every time a word is spelt correctly or a time limit within which he or she has to spell the word, i.e. 30 seconds. Alternatively, allow your child to hold the spelling words and test you to see if you spell them correctly. This will help your child to think of the letters sequentially as they check if you are stepping on the correct letters in the correct order.

Cloud Writing

Say a target spelling word and then your child has to write the word in the air whilst saying each letter aloud. The movements can be as big and as exaggerated as he or she wants. The bigger the movements, the more fun they'll have!

Words on your Back!

A fun and sometimes 'ticky' way to learn words. Sit with your back facing your child and ask them to write one of his or her spelling words on your back. If spelt correctly, he or she gets a point. If spelt incorrectly, provide the spelling on paper or say each letter aloud so your child can write it on your back correctly. Allow your child to check if you can spell the word correctly too by swapping roles.

Chalk Words

Buy a pack of coloured chalk and allow your child to write their spelling words on your driveway or on an area of outside paving. With our typical British climate, it isn't long until the words will be washed away by the rain ready to start again. Children love this activity as it allows them to write where they wouldn't normally be allowed to!



Spell-Leader

Pretend to be a cheerleader and spell out the words by saying the letters individually and then the word altogether. Use a high cheer for tall letters (like t, l, h, etc.), put hands on hips for letters that sit within the line (a, e, n, c, etc.) and a low cheer for letters that drop below the line (y, g, j, etc.). You could even buy or make pom-poms to make it really authentic!

Spell Text

Many children love to use phones and tablet computers so why not let them practise their spellings on them? Ask your child to write all their spellings in a text or as message and send it back to yourself or another phone owner within the household. Check the spellings once sent. Encourage them to re-send any that they get wrong. Alternatively, you could ask your child to text or message a silly story with their target spelling words in. They often love the opportunity to engage with technology and write nonsense stories!

