

Supporting you children to learn spellings – some ideas.

The following **games and activities** are suggestions for effective and enjoyable ways for helping your child to practice their spelling.

- **Cloudy Words**

Choose a word from the list which your child is learning to read and write. Give an example of how the word is used in a sentence and support them to think of another example. Write the word for your child and ask them to trace over the letters with a glue stick or a finger dipped in glue. Lay cotton wool over the glue until the entire word is covered. Ask your child to write a sentence on the paper and to draw a picture to go with their sentence. You could do this with other words and make a 'cloudy book.'

You could sprinkle sand over the glue instead of cotton wool.

- **Pipe Cleaner Words**

Ask your child to listen carefully while you say a word. Challenge your child to use the pipe cleaners to form all of the letters they hear. Show your child the word card and support them to use their pipe cleaners to add or change the letters they need to spell the word correctly.

- **Water Words**

Write several words on separate pieces of card or paper.

Ask your child to write a word two or three times on the patio or path with a paintbrush dipped in water. Repeat with a different word.

Challenge: can they write a sentence that includes the word?

- **Snowman**

Write a selection of words from the Word List on a large piece of paper.

Choose one of the words. Write one or two letters of the word on another piece of paper, with blank lines for the remaining letters.

Ask your child for a missing letter. Write it in if they are correct and if not, draw the head of the snowman.

The object of the game is for the child to guess the word before you have completed the drawing of the snowman.

- **Spelling Aloud**

Using flashcards, read a word out loud to your child. Your child then spells out that word. If they spell the word correctly, they 'win' the card. If they are incorrect, the card is put to the bottom of the pile. Take it in turns to read the word or spell out the word.

- **Guess Who**

Write some words on paper. Read the words with your child. Ask them to tape a word to your back. You have to ask a question e.g. does it begin with 'th'? Can I sound it out? Now your child takes a turn to answer your questions.

- **Magnetic Letters**

Say a word out loud. Ask your child to make the word using magnetic letters.

- **Concentration**

Make a set of matching word cards from the word list. Put them on the table face down. Turn two cards over at a time. If they match you or your child can keep them. The winner is the person with the greatest number of words. Make sure your child can read the words they turn over.

- **Silly Sentences**

Ask your child to write ten silly sentences using a spelling word in each sentence. Encourage them to underline their spelling words. Example: My dog wears a blue and purple dress when he takes a bath.

- **Pyramid Writing**

Ask your child to pyramid write 10 of their spelling words. When they are finished, draw a pyramid around their word.

e.g. Home h

h o

h o m

h o m e

- **ABC Order**

Encourage your child to write their spelling words in alphabetical order.

- **Bubble Letters**

Ask your child to write their spelling words in bubble letters, using different colours. They could also use squiggly, zigzag or dotted letters.

- **Playdough Spelling**

Give your child a flat piece of playdough and a sharp pencil. Ask them to carefully write the word in the playdough. Smooth it over and write a different word.

- **Spelling Scramble**

Write one of your child's spelling words with the letters scrambled up. Can your child unscramble the letters to spell the words correctly?