

# How to help your child with spelling



This information sheet is aimed at helping you to support your child in learning, investigating and practising their spellings.

There are many different ways your child may learn their spellings, including



**AUDITORY**



**VISUAL**



**KINESTHETIC**

It is important to support your children with spelling and ask your child's class teacher for any additional advice.

1. Sounding out: This is the most popular method for teaching spelling. Ask the child to spell out or 'segment' the word they want to spell, then write the constituent sounds. Children use pure sounds. E.g. C-a-t, Sh-i-p.
2. Syllabification: Clap out and say each of the syllables.  
E.g. Re-mem-ber
3. Making families of words: E.g. Night, fright, sight, slight
4. Root E.g. bi (two) cycle (circle) = bicycle
5. Prefixes and suffixes: E.g. Dis-satisfied Rules E.g. 'i before e except after c'; word ending in Y such as fairy/fairies (consonant +y = ies) Donkey/donkeys (vowel +y = ys)
6. Referring to the family words: that articulate the ambiguous letters E.g. Definite - finite, final, infinity; Muscle - muscular
7. Sounding out words as they are spelt  
E.g. Wed-nes-day
8. Words within words E.g. There is a rat in separate
9. Mnemonics E.g. Big Elephants Can Always Upset Small Elephants  
= because

# Spelling games, practice and websites



## Guess Who

**Materials:** Paper, pencil, tape, word list

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 answers your questions. Tape a word to their back.

## Secret Words

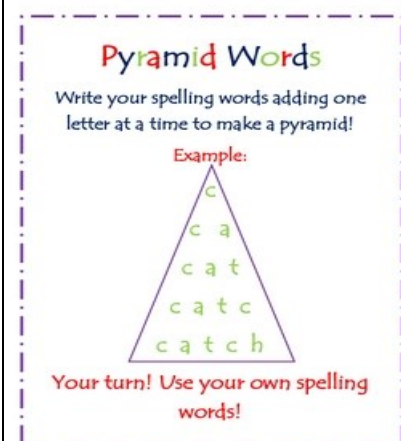
**Materials:** Word List, large sheet of paper, pencil, scissors

Write three words on a large piece of paper from the word list. Write out the same three words and cut them up. Lay them out in front of your child. Tell your child that one of the words is a 'secret word'. Choose a word from the paper and say each one of the letters in random order. Support your child to find the letter. Can they rearrange them to find the 'secret word'?

## Concentration

**Materials:** Paper/card, pencil, word list

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.



## Backwards words:

Write your spellings forwards and backwards to check you know which order the letters come in

E.g. where erehw

## ABC Order:

Write your spelling words in alphabetical order. Be sure to look at the first letter of each word. If the first letter is the same, look at the second letter

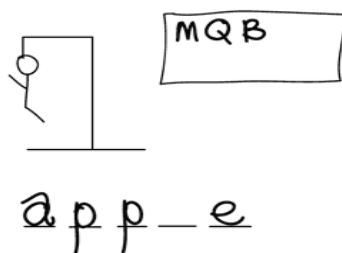
## Create a word search:

(a good website is <http://tools.atozteacherstuff.com/word-search-maker/wordsearch.php>)



## Spelling Hangman:

Leave spaces for missing letters and ask your child to guess which letter it could be (you could choose to draw any picture you like)



## Challenge words:

Challenge your children to write as many word using their spelling pattern as possible in 5 minutes.

Encourage children to use a dictionary to help them find the meanings of words and praise children when they use them correctly in sentences or conversations.

## The Dictionary Game:

Say a word and time your child to find it- the quickest time wins!

## Useful websites:

Google any of the following for links to fun and new ways to learn spellings

- BBC Bitesize pirate spelling
- Topmarks.com—spellings
- Kids Spell- create your won spelling list and games
- Primarygames.com- spelling rules
- Spelling city- vocabulary and interactive spelling games
- Manythings.org- helping children who are new to English learn their spellings
- Fun brain- spelling games
- Learning games for kids- spelling
- ICT Games.com—Look, cover, say, write, check