

## Seven suggestions for success in spelling for younger pupils

Look, **learn**, cover, write, check.



1. "Look, cover, write check" is not enough, for some children to learn and retain spellings. Many children need much more time to practise their spelling.
2. Many children need to use multi-sensory methods in order to practise and learn their spellings. These methods are suitable for all children including those with dyslexic type difficulties.
3. Always let your child see the word they are learning to spell while they are practising it. It is not necessary to test your child every time, it is more important to give them daily practise. (If your child is unable to read the word, it is doubtful that they will succeed in learning to spell it!)
4. Always reward your child for trying hard and for practising, by praising them. Constant criticism will lead to low self-esteem. Children with low self esteem find it harder to make progress.
5. It is important to keep activities fun! Try to find ways that do not use paper and pencil until they are getting spellings correct with other methods consistently.
6. Little and often is the key! 5 minutes daily practise is better than  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour once or twice a week. Get into a routine for homework. Children may need a little break before starting homework when they get home from school.
7. Constant revisiting helps the memory to retain things. Don't leave it too long before going back over words learned previously to ensure your child hasn't forgotten them.

## Seven Multi Sensory Activities to try at home



### 1. 'Alphabet Whizz!'

You will need: Magnetic/plastic letters, alphabet prompt card

Order the letters into an alphabet arc (rainbow shape). Use an alphabet prompt if necessary. Use to spell out words. (You may need extra letters to spell longer words.)



### 2. 'Feely bag fun'

You will need: Magnetic/plastic letters and a feely bag.

Use the letters from the alphabet arc to spell out a word. Put those letters into a 'feely' bag and give them a shake. Ask the child to feel in the bag and select each letter in the right order to spell the word again.



### 3. 'Clever Teddy'

You will need: Puppet or toy and magnetic/plastic letters.

The adult says that the toy can't remember how to spell some words and the child will have to help. The adult 'listens' to the toy and selects the right letters for the word. Ask the child to put them into the right order.



### 4. 'Roly poly words'

You will need: Tub of play dough.

Use play dough to roll into sausage shapes. Bend into letter shapes to spell a word.

### 5. 'Remind me!'



You will need: jotting paper and pencil

Let your child choose which word to practise. Encourage them to look at the word and try to think of a reminder which will help them to remember how to spell it. This could be saying the word in a 'funny' way e.g. veg -ee -tables for 'vegetables', use of a mnemonic e.g. silly ants in dresses for 'said', or 'owe, you, tee spells out' for 'out'. Write down the reminder on a piece of paper to use the next day. (Don't try and learn 10 spellings in one go like this.) Say the reminder together. Ask your child to say it on their own. Then ask your child to write it down.



### 6. 'We've got rhythm!'

You will need: voice recorder, jotting paper and pencil

Some words can either fit well to a chant or a rhythm when saying them out loud e.g. 'there' Tee, clap, aitch, clap, ee, are, ee, clap. or 'me with an ee, my with a why'

Chant together with your child. Let your child chant on their own. Record the chant and play it back. Write down the chant so that you can both practise it again another time in case you record over it.

### 7. 'Floating words'



You will need: jotting paper pencil

Ask your child to look up and imagine the word written up high up on the wall. Ask what colour it is, has it got any decorations on like spots or stripes and ask what colour they are. Ask what colour is in the background. (Jot all this down for use again next time.) Ask your child to spell the word out as they look up, imagining this word in colour and you write down what they say.