



William Law CE Primary School

Supporting your Child's
Spelling at Home



Many discussions with parents regarding spelling are often centred around the fact that their child seems to forget how to spell words, even when they have spelt them correctly in a test. This booklet contains spelling activities that aim to not only help your child to remember the spelling of new words, but will hopefully be fun to do too.



Key points to remember when helping your child with spellings

- Practice makes perfect
- Encourage your child to use the words they've practised - write stories together, keep a notebook of all the words they've learned to spell so far.
- Review words they can spell. Have them practise them once or twice each before looking at new words as this will boost their confidence.
- Discourage your child from learning all the spellings on a list at once - focus on a few at a time.



Important approaches

- Encourage your child to attempt to spell new words and praise their efforts
- Never spell words for them - point out mistakes and tell your child what he/she got right in their attempt.
- Encourage your child to try spelling the word in parts, by breaking it up into syllables and sounding it out. Try to focus on prefixes, e.g.

unhappy, compound words, e.g. flower/pot and root words, e.g. bene - beneficial.

- When studying a spelling list with your child, try to focus on the 'look, say, cover, write, check' method.

'Look, say, cover, write, check' method

Encourage your child to look at the word and say it out loud. Then cover the word and ask your child to write it down from memory. Lastly, check to see if they have spelled the word correctly.



Tips for helping younger children with their spelling

Write words in alphabetical order

Try splitting the word into parts (syllables). Every syllable must have a vowel in it, e.g. four-teen, tea-cher

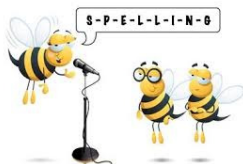
Colour in and illustrate words - write a word in one colour, then go over it again and again in different rainbow colours.

Repetition will help your child to learn the shape of the word.

Writing words with coloured chalk on black paper is another way of carrying this out.

Write each spelling word on 2 cards and play a matching game.

Let your child use their finger to write words on your back - guess what they have written and then reverse the process. Children seem to love doing this!



Have fun writing words in the air, on different textures e.g. sand, condensation. Flatten a piece of plasticine and use a pencil to write the word into it. Note any patterns within the word and then smooth the plasticine and challenge your child to write the word from memory.



Encourage your child to draw pictures to accompany their spelling words and then write the words underneath.

See if your child can spot their spelling words in a reading book or comic.

Make flashcards to help you when revising spellings with your child.

Find a picture in a magazine and try using the spelling words to write sentences relating to the picture.

Count the number of letters each word has. Focus on how many vowels, consonants, double letters etc.

Jumble up the letters and see if your child can unscramble them correctly to spell the word.





Tips for helping older children with their spelling

Ask your child to write down their spelling words. Ask them to colour all the short vowels red, the long vowels blue and all the blends green.

When your child has learned their spelling words and is confident they know them, write them down in a muddled fashion and then set your child the challenge of unmuddling them e.g. onhisaf = fashion

Make a word search using the spelling words and ask your child to do the same. When you have both finished making your word searches, swap them over and see if you can find the hidden words.

Let your child use Scrabble tiles to spell the words. Then ask them to add up the score for each word. Which word is worth the most points? The least? Scrabble is an excellent game to play when learning new vocabulary.



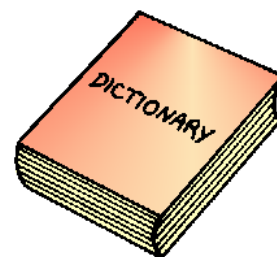
Challenge your child to write a really silly sentence, including as many of the words on their list as possible.

Encourage your child to spot familiar letter patterns in the words on their spelling list and then to collect other words that contain the same letter pattern.

Word Challenges and Games

Dictionary challenge

Challenge your child to find all their words in the dictionary. You might like to set them a time limit or have a race between you as to who can find each word the fastest.



Hidden words

Write the words on your child's list, hidden in a number of letters. Ask your child to find them within a set time, e.g. nftkkiteingh - kite.

Crosswords

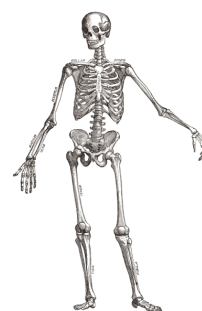


Produce a crossword puzzle together using the words on a spelling list (you will need a blank grid and dictionary for this).

Skeleton Story

For this, children use their spelling words to form the 'skeleton' on which they create a short story, such as;

Once upon a time in a gloomy castle there lived a beautiful princess etc, etc.



How do we remember spellings?

- through practise
- through finding out for ourselves
- through applying strategies that 'jog' our memory, such as mnemonics
- by remembering what we want to remember!

Using Mnemonics

Mnemonics are silly sentences that your child can make up and then learn to remind them how to spell a difficult word, for example; BECAUSE - Big Elephants Can Always Use Sticky Envelopes
Necessary/successful - a saying, such as 'One collar and two socks are necessary but you need two collars and two socks to be successful' is a way of remembering the number of Cs and Ss included in each of these words.



I BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER C

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