

## **1. Mind's eye spelling activity**

Place your hands next to your eyes as though it is a camera. Look at your spelling word and then snap a picture of it with your eyes. Close your eyes and see your word in your mind's eye. Visualize what the word looks like completely in your mind. Spell it out. Check to see if you got it right.

Air write your spelling word.

Write your word on a sheet of paper.

This activity specifically helps build your visual and tactile-kinesthetic memory skills.

## **2. Post your spelling words**

Post your child's spelling list on the bathroom mirror as well as next to their bed so they see them frequently throughout the week. Have your kids read their words every time they are in the bathroom as well as before you go to sleep and when you get up in the morning.

## **3. Colour code your spelling words**

Have your students write all the consonants in your words in blue and write all the vowels in red. This will help you remember your spelling words. Color coding can improve memory skills by 25%.

## **4. Look for your spelling words on street signs**

If you don't see the complete word, look for the letters in order in a news article, magazine, or on street signs. For example, if my word was bike, look for the letter /b/, then look for an /i/, then a /k/, and finally an /e/.

## **5. Use ABC pasta noodles and make your spelling words with them**

You can often find alphabet pasta at your local supermarket. Yes, you can find the letters of your words as you eat a delicious soup you have made, but before they are cooked, you can arrange them on a piece of colored construction paper. You can even glue them onto a sheet of paper. Just don't use the glued pieces for soup!

## **6. Using a magazine or newspaper, look for your spelling words**

If you don't see the complete word, look for the letters in order in a paragraph or in an ad. Cut the letters out and paste them on a sheet of paper. For example, if my word were bike, look for a /b/ in a sentence or paragraph and cut it out, then look for an /i/ and cut it out, then a /k/ and cut it out, and finally an /e/ and cut it out. Paste the letters in order on a sheet of paper.

### **7. Jumping with your spelling list words**

Draw a 5 x 5 grid on the pavement with chalk. Place each letter in one of the squares. You will have 1 extra square at the bottom center row.

Toss a bean bag to the first letter in your word and jump over to it. Then toss the bean bag to the next letter in the word, and so on, until you have finished spelling the word. Be sure to say the word aloud when you finish spelling each word.

Jump from one letter to the next that is in each word, spelling the word completely. Go back to the start and do the same for each subsequent word.

### **8. Bounce a ball while spelling your words out loud**

You can do this by bouncing a ball on the floor for each letter in the word or by bouncing the ball against a wall, one bounce for each letter in the word. Say each letter as you are bouncing the ball.

### **9. Draw a picture with your spelling words hidden in it**

Make sure to take out the coloured pencils or crayons! See if someone else can find the words in your picture.

### **10. Do an Add-On-Story with your family, incorporating all of your spelling list words**

An Add-On-Story is a story where one person starts by setting the scene and then has the next person continue the story. You can keep the story going until all the spelling words have been used.

Here is one story starter you can use:

It was a dark and stormy night. We saw flashes of lightning and heard the thunder booming. All of a sudden we were in darkness... What happened next?

### **11. Bonus Spelling Activities**

Just like with sports and learning a new skill, practice makes perfect. What are some other hands-on spelling activities?

#### **Word search**

Students love word searches! This is a quick way to improve visual processing skills in addition to learning your spelling words. These help students identify words quickly in a sea of letters.

**Magnetic letters**

Magnetic letters are the perfect hands-on spelling activity. You can get letters where consonants are blue and vowels are red. This helps students clearly visualize as they spell the word in their list.

**Flashcards**

Flashcards can help tremendously with learning sight words. You can also draw pictures on the sight word cards and use colors to help.

**Matching memory games**

Concentration, also known as Memory, is another great way to learn sight words. This is where you place all cards face down and flip two cards over at one time to try to find a match. If you find a match, you keep the cards, if you don't, you place them back face down.

Spelling instruction does not have to be boring and pure memorization! When you are working on spelling words, make sure that students read the word aloud. This will help them with their auditory processing, phonemic awareness, and phonic skills.