

Practising Spellings At Home

It is really important that parents and carers are involved in helping children to learn their spellings. Confidence in spelling allows children to write more freely and imaginatively. Children should practise their spellings EVERY day. Here are some games or ideas you could use to help your child. Why not try a different one each night to keep it fun and interesting. Remember everyone learns by; doing it, seeing it, saying it, writing/drawing it, listening to it. Making sure you have a variety of games and tasks is a great way to ensure the learning sticks!

1) Word Search

Create your own word searches using the spelling words your child is working on. Here's a link to a website that will do it for you.

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>

2) Air spelling:

Choose a spelling word. Children write the word in the air slowly, saying each letter.

Remind your child that they need to be able to 'see' the letters they have written in the air.

Now ask them questions about the word. For example, you could ask 'What is the first letter?' 'What is the last letter?' 'How many letters are there?' etc.

3) Media Search:

Using a newspaper or magazine give your child 15 minutes to look for their spelling words.

Circle them in different coloured crayon. Which of their words was used the most times?

4) Shaving Cream Practise:

An easy way to clean those dirty tables is to finger paint on them with shaving cream.

Squirt some on the table and then practise spelling the words by having your children write them with their finger in the shaving cream.

5) Salt Box Spelling:

Pour salt or sand into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) and then your child practises writing the spellings in it with their finger.

6) Scrabble Spelling:

Find the letters needed to spell the words your children are practising and then mix them up in the bag. Time the child to see how long it takes them to unscramble the letters. For extra maths practise you could ask them to find out the value of each of the words.

7) Pyramid Power:

Ask your child to sort their words into a list from easiest to hardest. They then write the easiest word at the top of the page near the middle. Write the next easiest word twice underneath. Write the third word three times underneath again until they have built a pyramid of words.

8) Ransom Note:

Cut the letters needed for the words from a newspaper or magazine and glue them down to spell the words.

9) Design A Word:

Pick one word and write it in bubble letters. Colour in each letter in a different pattern.

10) Sign Your Word:

Practise spelling your words by signing each letter. To see the British Sign Language Alphabet go to <http://www.british-sign.co.uk/fingerspelling-alphabet-charts/>

11) Water wash:

Use a paintbrush and water to write the words outside on concrete or pavements.

12) ABC Order:

Get your child to write the words out in alphabetical order. Then write them in reverse alphabetical order.

13) Colourful Words:

Get your children to use two different coloured pens to write their words. One to write the consonants and one to write the vowels. Do this a couple of times then write the whole word in one colour.