

# How to help your child with spelling

Spelling is  
~~difficult~~  
~~challenging~~  
hard.

Some of the words your child will bring home as spellings will be words that are spelt **phonetically** and can be sounded out. Other words will be **high frequency words** (HFW) or tricky words, such as 'was'. These cannot be sounded out, so it is important to make sure that your child is not trying to learn them by sounding out.

## Multi-Sensory Strategies for Learning High Frequency Words?

**Eyes**—look at the spelling/say the letter sounds/cover it up/write it/check it.

Use colour to highlight tricky areas of the word. Eg: said.

Use drawings to help fix patterns into your head, e.g. **want** =

W 

**Ears/mouth**—record child spelling words aloud for them to listen to. Sing it/shout it/chant it/rap it!

**Hands**—practising spellings in sand/water/magnetic letters/through painting/large with chalk/tiny as possible with a fine pen/as part of a drawing.

**Body memory**—dance/march/write it on each other's backs/walk the word—these can all help to fix spellings in place

**Imagination**—walk around a familiar room in your head and write letters from the word in different colours on different parts of the room. Then walk round the room again, 'seeing' the letters as you go—it sounds strange but it does work! You could use a tree to hang letters on, or even your own body—try it!

### Other Strategies to try...

**MNEMONICS** - Because = Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants.

**LETTER BY LETTER** - Pick on just part of the word that is tricky. Focus on how many letters your child got right, and work on the ones they struggled with, e.g. " 'WEN' 3/4, well done! Let's see if we can remember the H next time"

**Learning to type** - Can be really helpful with learning to spell—it reinforces finger patterns which help retain spelling patterns.

This is a list of spelling homework activities you can choose from to help your child learn their spellings. If there is a word they are finding tricky to learn, try spelling it using a few of these ideas. The more ways they spell the word, the better they will learn it!

### Fridge Magnets

Using fridge magnets to build the word:



### Newspaper Words

Physically scrunch up newspaper to make the whole word or the tricky parts of the word and then write in the other letters to make the word:



### Rainbow Writing

Writing the whole word or the trickiest part of it over and over in different colours and then add the other letters to make the word:



### Lego Writing

Make the words out of Lego:



## Playdough Words

Make your spelling words from playdough or roll out the playdough and press Lego bricks into it to spell the words:



## Pipe cleaner words:

Bend pipe cleaners into letter shapes to spell your words:

## Salt, Sand or Flour Tray

Spread a layer of salt, sand or flour in a shallow tray, write the words using your finger or a paintbrush. Put coloured paper under the salt, sand or flour to make the letters really stand out.

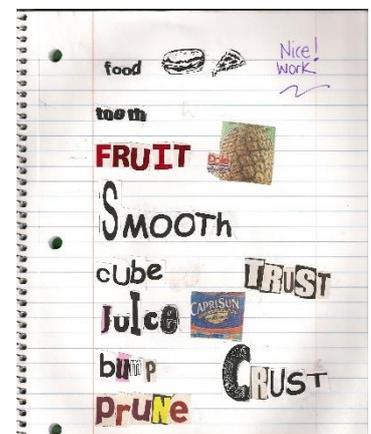


## Shaving Cream

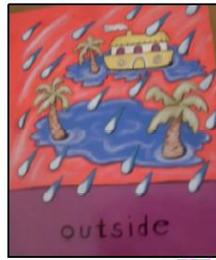
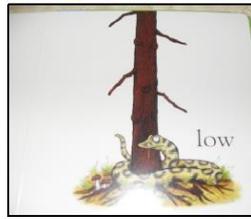
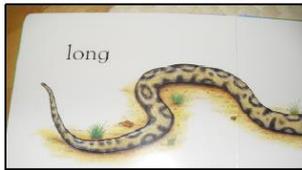
This is another fun sensory experience. Make a thin layer of shaving cream on a tray and use a paintbrush or better yet a fingertip to write the words.

## Ransom Words

Find the words or letters in a newspaper, cut them out and stick them onto paper:



## Finding the words in a book



<b>Picture</b>	Saturday
Picture	Saturday
<b>Picture</b>	Saturday
<i>Picture</i>	Saturday

## Computer Words

Type the words out in different colours, sizes and fonts:

## Sentences

Write some of the words out in a real or silly sentence.

A dog has fur.

On Saturday I will go to the moon.

I like eating beans on toast with jam and ice cream on top.

## Alliterative Phrases or Sentences

Choose 5 of your spelling words and write five alliterative phrases or sentences. An alliteration uses the same initial letter for all the words. Underline your spelling words: Deep down in the dark dungeon.

Tiny town. Sheep shout.

## Antonyms

Choose some of your spelling words and write an antonym next to each word. An antonym is a word that means the opposite. Use a dictionary or thesaurus for help, if needed.

Example: hot cold large small light dark

## Consonants and Vowels

Write your spelling words; use blue for consonants and red for vowels (a, e, i, o, u).

shout said amazing

## Definition Match

List some of your spelling words on one side of your paper. Then write what they mean the other side of the paper but mix them up so a partner would be able to match the words and definition.

### Missing Consonants or Missing Vowels

Write your spelling words, leaving blank spaces for all consonants:   a     e   (answer: carpet)

Write your spelling words, leaving blank spaces for all vowel letters: bl  ck =black, b  x =box

### Proofreading Practice

Pick 5 spelling words. For each word write a group of words that look like your spelling word, but are misspelled slightly. Don't forget to include the correct spelling word to the group of words, too:

right

rite

right

rihgt

### Scrabble Tiles

Use Scrabble tiles to build the words. Add up the value of the letters in each of your spelling words. Number your paper and list your words in order from the lowest value to the greatest value:

house: h (4) + o (1) + u (1) + s (1) + e (1) = 8

#### **Scrabble Tiles**



### Stairsteps

Write 10 of your spelling words as "stairsteps":

d

do

dog

### Synonyms

Choose some of your spelling words and next to each one write a synonym. A synonym is a word that means the same. Use a dictionary or thesaurus for help, if needed.

Example: small tiny huge gigantic red scarlet

### Telephone Words

Translate your spelling words into numbers using the telephone keypad and

add up the value of each letter: block = b (2) + l (5) + o (6) + c (2) + k (5) = 20



### The Conversation

Pick some of your spelling words and write a conversation between two characters using the words. Remember to use speech bubbles or speech marks around the words that are being said by a character. Underline each spelling word: "Hey Jack, do you want to skate to the park?" asked Matt.

Jack replied, "I would love to but where is that place?"

### True or False?

Pick some of your spelling words and write sentences to explain their meaning. Some of the statements should be true, and others should be false. Be sure to write True or False next to each statement and underline each spelling word:

You go to nursery when you are 12 years old. True or False

If you uncover a pot you take the lid off. True or False

### Word Cousins

Choose some of your spelling words and put them into a word bank at the top of your paper. Write 3 clues for each word and leave a blank after the clues:

Coat, raincoat, hat, \_\_\_\_\_ (answer: jacket)

Toast, cornflakes, egg, \_\_\_\_\_ (answer: breakfast)

### Words-in-Words

Look at your spelling words and then write at least two words that you can make from each. You may scramble the letters to create new words: shower show owe row

### Tracing Words

Trace your words in sand, on felt, in the carpet, using your finger.

### Word Search

Create a word search on puzzlemaker.com. Find your words.

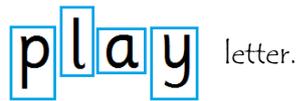
### Chalk Talk

Write your words in chalk. You can do this activity with a whiteboard and pen too.

**3 Way Words** Write your words three ways, really **big**, really small, and in your best handwriting.

### Word Boxes

Write your words. Then make boxes around each



### Trace & Spell

Ask someone to write your words neatly. Trace the words spelling out each letter in the word.

### Alphabetical Order

Write your words in alphabetical order 3 times.



### Silly Riddle Words

Write a riddle for each of your words. Include a clue about how the word is spelled. Solve your riddles. Example:  
*The word is 4 letters long. The first letter is b and it rhymes with shark.*

### Word Chains

Write down each spelling word. Change one letter to make a new word. Challenge: See if you can go back to your original word. Example: *cake, lake, late, date, mate, make, cake.*

Make paper chains of your words by writing one letter on each loop or make sentences with your words by writing one word on each loop:



### Crossword Puzzle

Create a crossword puzzle on [puzzlemaker.com](http://puzzlemaker.com) and then solve it.

### Word Strategies

Come up with a strategy to help you learn each of your "tricky words" **B-E-A-U-tiful**

### Spell & Do

Spell your words while brushing your teeth. Spell your words out loud in the car, while riding your bike, or while taking a walk. Sing a song or chant your spelling words: **Peo-ple, peo-ple**

### Body Letters

Spell each of your words while making each letter with your body:



## Record & Spell

Tape record yourself spelling your spelling words. Play the tape again and spell along.

## Torchlight Words

Put up an alphabet chart, turn out the lights and use a torch to shine on one letter at a time to spell your words.

## Other Hand

If you are right handed write your words using your left hand, if you are left handed write words using your right hand.



## Paint (or Hair Gel) Bags

Pour paint into a ziplock freezer bag and seal. Use fingertips to write your words on the bag. To erase, simply squish bag and you are ready for the next word.

## Hidden Spelling Words

On a white piece of paper let your child write out the spelling words using a white crayon. Once all words have been written use watercolours and paint to make hidden words appear.



Glue & Glitter - Write out spelling words in glue and sprinkle some glitter on top.

