

### Ideas for helping your child learn to spell their weekly words

Most of the spelling words that the children are asked to learn relate to spelling patterns that are taught during Year 3. You and your child will be able to identify the patterns with ease and then talk about them. While much of spelling comes down to repeated practise of given words, sets of words with a common pattern are obviously going to be easier to learn – you might want to remind your child that every word is going to have the same group of letters and to use these to help write the word correctly.

While repeated patterns can help us spell, we all know the seeming randomness of English spelling. So in school, we often suggest writing a word down twice on a piece of scrap paper; then look at both and decide which one looks correct.

The suggestions below don't give technical ideas on teaching how to spell these all-important words, but more some ideas on activities you can do with your child to help them remember them when they are writing.

- ✓ The adult to write the word in three different ways - one correct, two incorrect - the child to identify which is the correctly written word.
  
- ✓ Spelling doesn't have to involve writing - ask your child to spell the word out loud.
  
- ✓ If a word is particularly tricky, e.g. 'said', work with your child to think of a mnemonic (a system or a trick to help you remember something) so that they remember how to spell it.
  - said - silly ants in dustbins
  - because - big elephants cause accidents under small elephants
  
- ✓ Spell the word using magnetic letters on the fridge, or using Scrabble tiles. Play skipping, jumping or hopping games, sounding out each letter of the word on each skip/jump/hop.
  
- ✓ Play 'Hangman', but only using the week's spelling words.
  
- ✓ Whiteboards are so much more appealing to write on than paper! Provide your child with one at home and give them words to practise.