

Practising Spellings At Home – 30 Great Ideas

It is vitally important that parents and care givers are involved in helping children to learn their spellings. Confidence in spelling allows children to write more freely and imaginatively. You should practise your spellings EVERY day.

Here are some games or ideas you could use. 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

So 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 your spelling words. Or use this link to get your computer to do it for you.
<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>
2. **Look, Cover, Write, Check** – Write words into the game on www.ictgames.com/lwc.html
3. **Air Spelling** – Choose a spelling word. With index finger child writes the word in the air slowly, saying each letter. Parent needs to remind the child they need to be able to 'see' the letters they have written in the air. When they have finished writing the word, underline it and say the word again. Now ask your child 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.
4. **Media Search** – Using a newspaper or magazine, the child has 15 minutes to look for their spelling words. Circle them in different coloured crayon. Which of the spellings words was used the most times?
5. **Shaving Cream Practice** – An easy way to clean those dirty tables is to finger paint on them with shaving cream. Squirt some on the table (with parents permission and supervision!) and then child practises spelling words by writing them with their finger in the shaving cream.
6. **Salt Box Spelling** – Pour salt into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) and then child practises writing spellings in it with their finger.



7. **Child Scrabble Spelling** – Find the letters child needs to spell their words and then mix them up in the bag. Parents to time child unscrambling letters. For extra maths practice child could find out the value of each of the words.
8. **Pyramid Power** – Sort words into a list from easiest to hardest. Write the easiest word at the top of the page near the middle. Write the next easiest word twice in a row underneath. Write the third word three times in a row underneath again, until you have built your pyramid.
9. **Ransom Note** – Cut out the letters needed for words from a newspaper or magazine and glue them down to spell the words.
10. **Spell it with Beans** – Use Lima beans (or any dried beans or lentils) to spell out the words. Glue them onto separate pieces of card to make a great set of flash cards to practise with for the rest of the week.
11. **Pipe Cleaners or Tooth Picks** – These are just a couple of suggestions of things you could use for spelling words (as above).
12. **Tasty Words** – Just like above, but this time try and find tasty things to spell words with, like raisins. Then when the child has spelt them right, they get to eat them!
13. **Design a Word** – Pick one word and write it in bubble letters. Colour in each letter in a different pattern.
14. **Sign Your Word** – Practise spelling words by signing each letter. See <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/ian.barnsley/bsisite/bslindex.html> to see how to sign each letter.
15. **Water Wash** – Use a paintbrush and water to write words outside on concrete or pavements.
16. **ABC Order** – Write words out in alphabetical order. Then write them in reverse alphabetical order.
17. **Story Time** – Write a short story using all your words. Don't forget to check punctuation!
18. **Simple Sentence** – Write a sentence for each of the spelling words. Remember each sentence must start with a capital letter and end with a full stop.
19. **Colourful Words** – Use two different coloured pens to write 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.



20. **Memory Game** – Make pairs of word cards. Turn them all over and mix them up. Flip over two cards, if they match child gets to keep them, if not, turn them over again. Try and match all the pairs.
21. **Finger Tracing** – Child uses their finger to spell out each word on a their partners back. Then it's the partners turn to write the words on the child's back for the child to feel and spell.
22. **Spelling Steps** – Write words as if they were steps, adding one letter each time (it's much easier doing this on squared paper).
23. **Scrambled Words** – Write words, then write them again with all the letters mixed up.
24. **X-Words** – Find two of the spelling words with the same letter in and write them so they criss cross.
25. **Ambidextrous** – Swap your pen into the hand that you don't normally write with. Now try writing out spellings with that hand.
26. **Telephone Words** – Translate spelling words into numbers from the telephone keypad.
27. **Secret Agent** – Write out the alphabet, then give each letter a different number from 1 to 26 (a = 1, b = 2, c = 3 etc). Now you can spell out words in secret code.
28. **Missing Letters** – Parent writes out one of the words loads of times on a piece of paper, but each time they have to miss out a letter or two. Then the child has to fill in the missing letters. After checking them all, try it again with another word.
29. **Listen Carefully** – Parents spell out one of the words then the child has to say what the word is they've spelt out.
30. **Acrostic** – Use words that start with each letter in the spelling word. You are more likely to remember it if it makes sense!

