How to Help Your Child Learn Their Spellings

We understand that some children have a preferred way or ways to learn their spellings and that not all strategies will work for all words. Here is a selection of ideas you might want to try at home to make learning spellings more enjoyable and less of a chore for all concerned! Coloured paper and brightly coloured pens may also help to make it more fun!

Look, Cover, Write, Check

Ask your child to look carefully at the word. How many letters does it have? How many syllables?

Cover up the word and get them to try to write it, then uncover the word and check whether they remembered correctly.

Break It Up

Can you break the word up into small chunks of 2, 3 or 4 letters to make it seem more manageable?

Can you write all the spelling words in small chunks on pieces of paper or card, then jumble them all up and ask your child to put all the words back together?

'Say It Silly'

Are there any words on the spelling list which are written differently to how they are said? Can your child say them the way they are spelt? Good examples include scissors, knowledge and answer.

Pyramid

Get your child to write the first letter of the word, then write the first two letters on the row below, then add the third on the row below and continue until they have the whole word. For example...

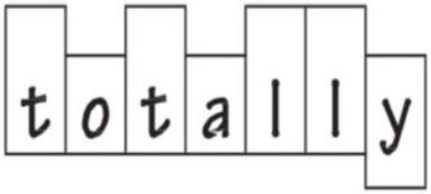
p
py
pyr
pyra
pyram
pyrami
pyramid

Words Within Words

Lots of words have shorter words within them. For instance, the Y4 pupils recently realised that there is a bra in the library! If you're really lucky, you might find two words within a word, e.g. not + ice = notice.

'Box It Up'

Ask your child to draw boxes around the letters of the word so that they can see where the ascenders and descenders come in the order of letters.



Silly Sentences

Can your child use the letters in the word to make up a silly sentence. Lots of us know the one about the big and small elephants but did you know that Rhythm Has Your Two Hips Moving?!

Tic Tac Toe

Pick one word each and play a traditional game of noughts and crosses, writing the words instead of symbols.

Missing Vowels

Take all the vowels out of the words and see if your child can replace them!

Backwards Write

Can they concentrate very hard and write the word backwards?

Quickwrite

How many times can they write the word correctly in one minute?

If you find any more fun, successful methods, please let us know. We'll add them to the website for everyone to see!