

## Top Tips on Spelling

Find out which words your child is getting stuck spelling from a reading book. (Google the first 100 most commonly used words in English)

Choose 10 words to play with, 5 your child already knows and 5 new ones

**Trace words;** Write one of the words about 6cm tall in joined up/cursive writing and ask your child to trace over the word in a few different felt tip colours. If you can encourage them to say the word over and over as they trace that is great. **Do not use block capitals** but use lower and upper case letters

**Jigsaw words;** Adult to cut the word into single letters and ask your child to make it. Then say it.

**Walk the word:** Cut out dragon/fairy/any footprints and write the letters of the word, 1 onto each foot print, with your child, put them in the correct order and then step along, jump along, hop along the letters while you say the letter names e.g. w,e,n,t then say the full word 'went'

**Look, Say, Cover, Write;** Work with a focus word, your child should look at it, say it out loud a few times, cover the word and then write the word from memory.

**Say it, Build it, Write it:** Write all 26 letters of the alphabet on 3cm square pieces of paper/card, say the word, use the letters to build it the cover it and write it.

**Sailboat speller:** adult to draw the triangle sail of a boat, (tall side on the left) then draw straight lines for every letter. On the top smallest line write the 1<sup>st</sup> letter, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> line write the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> letters on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line write the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> letters gradually building the word. Then say it.

**Eyes closed writing:** After practising each spelling a few times, ask your child to write the word with their eyes closed in joined up/cursive writing. This uses muscle memory and helps spelling.

**Learn spellings in groups;** Highlight the parts of words which are the same, e.g. hop/pop, or cream/steal.

**Mnemonics;** Make up rhymes and draw a picture to help your child remember the letters e.g. laughing ants under green hats for laugh. Personal invented ones are the most memorable.

Once your child has learned a spelling, practise writing it in a sentence that you read out. Practise the same spellings for lots of days because your child may be a quick forgetter despite their good efforts. Spelling takes a long time to move from the short term memory to the long and your child will need a lot of practise

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