

# A guide Spelling

for parents

This leaflet contains tips and ideas for helping your child learn spellings in a fun and purposeful way.



- ✓ Making spelling fun
- ✓ Using strategies for spelling
- ✓ Applying spellings to their writing.

# How can I make learning spellings more fun?

## Sliders

Cut two slits in the centre of some A4 card and insert a strip through the centre with some words on. As you pull the strip it will reveal and hide different words.

## Find the word

Look to see if you can see a small word inside your word. E.g. where, friend.

## Matching pairs

Find matching pairs of words with a spelling pattern in. E.g. train/rain



## Word painting

Draw the word in chalk and brush over it with a wet paintbrush.



## Look, say, cover, visualise, write, check

- ✓ Look at the word
- ✓ Say it out loud
- ✓ Cover the word
- ✓ Visualise the word (imagine a picture of it in your head)
- ✓ Write the word from memory



## Jumbled letters

Write your word on paper, cut each letter and put the word back together.

## Word List Challenge

See how many words you can list which start or end with the same spelling pattern. E.g. station, creation or pretend, prepare

## Word shape

Draw around the shape of the word and try to remember the shape of the word.

## Rainbow words

Break the word down into syllables and write each part in a different colour.



## Bubble writing

Write the word in bubble writing and write inside it.



## Mnemonic

Write a mnemonic to remind you of the spelling. The first letter of each word in the sentence spells the word. E.g. **where**: what has everyone really eaten?

## Tracing

Write your word down 3 times and trace over it in different colours.

## Rhymes and pictures

Use rhymes or pictures to go with words to help them remember.

1. You **hear** with your **ear**
2. The word **separate** has "a rat" in it (**separate**).
3. Donkeys, monkeys - There are **keys** in donkeys and monkeys.
4. The word **here** is also in its opposite **there**.
5. Villain - A villain is one who lives in a villa.



### Internet games

Search online for word games to practise words.  
E.g. [www.funbrain.com/spell/](http://www.funbrain.com/spell/)



### Musical spellings

Make up a short rhyme or song to remember spellings or rules for spellings.

### Spelling tennis

One person starts with a letter, the other adds one until a word is made. The last person to add a letter wins.

### Spell jumps

Jump up and down on a trampoline or skip whilst saying each letter of your word you are spelling.

## Strategies for learning to spell

Lots of children learn in different ways which is why teaching them means using a range of approaches. This will also help them when applying spelling because they will see the word in different contexts. Here are some strategies for spelling:

- ✓ Listening for the sounds and breaking them down
- ✓ Breaking a word into syllables
- ✓ Using rhymes, mnemonics and songs to remember
- ✓ Using visual approaches e.g. 'word shape', 'bubble writing'
- ✓ Being multi-sensory e.g. 'word painting'
- ✓ Using verbal and social e.g. 'spelling tennis'
- ✓ Kinaesthetic and physical e.g. 'spell jump'