



Spellings – ideas for helping your child

Many children struggle to learn their spellings or tricky words. Always remember to make it a positive experience and give them lots of opportunities to revisit the words they are learning. Games help with this – Bingo, matching pairs, using plastic letters or letters on squares of paper to make a word and then mix it up to try again.

Make a memory aid

Find a trick to help remember tricky words. Come up with a rhyme or silly saying to help them remember. Eg. Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants is a common way to remember BECAUSE.

Use art or colour

For some children, drawing a picture or using colour to write the tricky word makes it easier for them to remember. Keep a box of all the words they are learning so you can keep going back to revisit them over the year.

Use different senses

Trace letters in the air, onto rough surfaces, in water or sand. Research shows that using different senses can help children remember the letter pattern. Sing the spelling out loud, jump from letter to letter using chalk letters on concrete.

Make a mental picture

Encourage your child to make a mental “photo” in their mind of what they have to learn. This works for maths facts too. Encourage them to talk about what they can see in their mind when they bring the tricky word to mind.

Talk about the word

Look at where the word might have come from. Can they find words they know within the new word? Are there other words with similar spellings? Can they learn these words at the same time to be more efficient?

Remember not to overload your child with too many new words at once. They need to feel that they can succeed. Always make it a positive experience and support your child as they learn.