

Spelling Matters

Children can find writing a real challenge. They need encouragement, support and praise for their efforts. You can best support your child by:

- encouraging them to write on every possible occasion, praising their efforts and, importantly, letting them see you writing whenever possible;
- playing word games with them, for example, I spy, Scrabble, Boggle and Find the Word puzzles;
- pointing to interesting or new words as you read to your child (without interrupting the flow of the story);
- composing emails together.



Most of us, even if we consider ourselves to be good spellers, make spelling mistakes at some point. What is important is that we know what to do when we get stuck and we know how to correct our mistakes.



So, what can I do?

There are a number of aspects to consider with spelling, and many methods, strategies and games you can use to help encourage and support your children in becoming confident and accurate spellers. You will find a variety of suggestions below.



Some spelling strategies

There are many strategies that you can use to help your child become a confident and accurate speller. These include:

1. Sounding words out: breaking the word down into sounds, for example, **c-a-t** and **sh-e-ll**. Longer words do not work with this method very well so you should try some of the strategies below.
2. Dividing the word into chunks, and saying each chunk whilst writing the word. For example, **REMEMBER** can be broken up into **RE - MEM - BER** and then blended back together
3. Using the **Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check** method:
 - Look at the word and say it out aloud, cover the word, then write it and finally check to see if it is correct.
 - If not, highlight or underline the incorrect part and repeat the process.



4. Using mnemonics to help memorise tricky words. For example, "*There is a cess pit in necessary.*"

5. Finding words within words. For example, "*There is a rat in separate.*"

6. Making links between the meanings of words and their spelling. For example, *sign*, *signal*, and *signature*.

7. Using a dictionary as soon as they know how to.

And finally... encourage your child to have a go at spelling words they are unsure of. This will give them the opportunity to try out spelling strategies and to identify those that they find useful. You can help them to use the strategies outlined above and praise their efforts.



Remember: Every Little Helps!