

Ways to practise spellings

1. What is the difficult bit?

Look for the tricky bit of the word where the letters do not correspond to the sounds that they know (e.g. in **different** the difficult bit is the **e** in the middle because you can't hear it. In unnecessary, the tricky bit might be the double letters) The tricky bits will not always be the same for everybody so **highlight or underline the parts that they find difficult to remember.**

2. Which looks right?

Write a word 3 times, once spelled correctly and twice with an incorrect spelling. For example: **becus, because, becuz.** Ask your child to point out the one that looks right. Another way is to ask your child to write the spelling with different options e.g. unnecessary – if they are unsure whether to double to consonant, get them to try both ways and then see which looks right.

3. Sparkler Writing

Ask your child to close their eyes and imagine that they are writing a word with a sparkler as you spell the word out loud. For some children, writing the words in sand or in a paint program on an ipad etc... will help them visualise it.

4. Speed - write

Give your child 30 seconds to write a word down as many times as they can. Go back and look for the ones they spelt correctly at the end. Can they beat their score?

5. Words in words

Talk with your child about words that they can see within a word. For example,

“Can you see **the** in **they**?”

6. Build it up

Write a word letter by letter:

t

t h
t h e
t h e r
t h e r e

7. Display:

On the wall next to where you eat, in the bathroom, up the stairs are all good places to display words.

8. Decorate/illustrate a word

Write a word for your child in 'bubble' writing. Use colouring pens/pencils, glitter etc. Talk to your child about the word and its spelling.

9. Say it as it sounds

The funny pronunciation can help us remember how to spell a word. For example, say **Wed-nes-day** rather than **Wednesday**.

10. Mnemonics

There are a few sight words where a mnemonic may help:

said: Sally-Anne Is Delightful

could: C Oh U Lovely Duck!

because: Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants