



Spelling Homework Ideas

Spelling is important for two key reasons:

- **Communication:** spelling is a key part of clear communication. Communication skills are essential for children to develop and interact in the world.
- **Literacy:** reading and spelling skills are very closely related and help to develop overall literacy skills which in turn leads to greater confidence in all areas.

Practising spellings at home can be hugely beneficial to your child. It is important that words are not just learnt for the weekly test, but are also remembered for everyday use in their writing. Spelling needs to be taught and thought about as a problem solving activity in the same way that we may think about maths, it will need thinking and working out.

Spelling strategies can be: visual, auditory or kinaesthetic and by thinking about these different approaches children can use metacognition to understand the best learning strategy for them.

There are many different methods that can be used to learn spellings so that the learning does not become repetitive or boring. Try out some different strategies each week and have fun learning and always celebrate success.

Here are some of our favourite methods:

- **ABC order:** Write your words in alphabetical order
- **Word sort:** Sort your words by vowel sounds, patterns, syllables etc
- **Repetition:** Write your words three times each
- **Sentences:** Write an amazing sentence for each spelling word
- **Word Art:** Draw a picture and write your words in the picture
- **Story time:** Write a short story using all your words
- **Creative Letters:** Write your words by cutting out letters in an old newspaper or magazine and glue them on a paper
- **Pyramid:** Write your words adding or subtracting one letter at a time. The result will be a pyramidal shape of words
- **Good Clean Words:** Write your words in shaving cream on a counter or some other surface that can be cleaned safely
- **Handwriting:** Write each word three times in your best handwriting
- **Cheer your words:** Pretend you are a cheerleader and call out your words and letters
- **Sound words:** Use a device to record your words and their spelling. Then listen to your recording to see that you spelled all the words correctly

- **Choo choo words:** Write the entire list end to end as one long word using different colours of crayon or ink for different words
- **Chalk:** Write your words outside using pavement chalk
- **Letters:** Write each word as many times as there are letters in the word
- **Out Loud:** Spell your words out loud two times to a brother or sister, mum or dad or someone in your family (a great way to practise for a spelling bee!)
- **Trace Around:** Print your spelling words neatly. Take a coloured pen and draw an outline around the word, closely following the shape of the letters. Close your eyes and remember the shape.
- **Colourful Words:** Use two different colour pens to write your spelling words. Use one colour to write the consonants and the other for the vowels.
- **Military Spelling:** Do jumping jacks / star jumps, as you clap say a letter to spell your words.
- **Finger Tracing:** Use your finger to spell out each of your words one letter at a time on a member of your family's back. Then it is YOUR turn to feel and spell. Try to guess the word.
- **Practice Test:** Have an adult give you a practice test
- **Computer words:** Type out spelling words ten times each on the computer. Use different colours and fonts and print it out
- **Flashwriting:** In a darkened room use a torch to draw letters in the air
- **Timer:** Set a timer. Set it for three minutes. See how many times you can write your words before the timer goes off
- **Scramble:** Have a member of your family scramble your spelling words. You unscramble them
- **Create and Activity:** Can you think of a fun way to do your spelling activities. Try it out and let your teacher know your new strategy.