



# Spelling Strategies

There are several strategies that can be used to teach spellings. Not all strategies have to be used; it is whichever strategy your child feels most comfortable using and is the most effective.

## 1. Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check

First **look** at the word, then **say** it out loud, next **cover** the word and visualise it, then **write** the word, finally **check** your spellings to see if you are correct.



## 2. Word division into sounds and letters

It can be helpful for children to divide words out loud before they try to spell them, the key here is REPETITION, REPETITION, REPETITION!

Singles	Sounds	Compound words	Multi-syllable
Please = p-l-e-a-s-e	mat = m - at	understand = under - stand	returning = re - turn - ing
stop = s - t - o - p	think = th - ink	playground = play - ground	information = in - for - ma - tion

## 3. Speed writing



Allow your child to look at the word for a minute or so, and keep repeating the letters aloud. They may even want to pretend to write the word in the air so they get a 'feel' for it. Now set a timer (start with a minute), how many times can they write the word? (Only words spelt correctly can be counted! Now try again with a longer/shorter time or a new word)

## 4. Rhyme groupings

Reminding children of rhyming families can be helpful so that they can try to link new words with parts of words already known.

e.g.

cat - hat - sat

look - book - shook



## 5. Words in words

Try looking for little words in big words.

g - old - en	fat - her	w - hen
st - and - ing	w - hat	Ac - company

## 6. Word ladder

This is an idea for words that are causing particular difficulty. Make sure each completed word is covered before attempting the next.

e.g. March

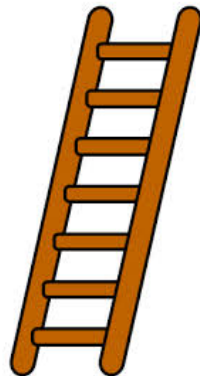
M

Ma

Mar

Marc

March



## 7. Mnemonics!

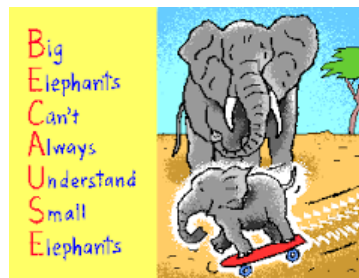
If a word or part of a word is particularly difficult to remember, it can help to 'grow' the letters into words, which will give a saying or rhyme to remember. Try making up some of your own for words that your children consistently spell incorrectly.

e.g. said

Silly- Ants- In- Danger

Because

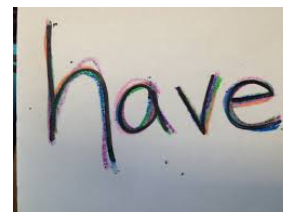
Big-Elephants-Can't-Always-Understand-Small-Elephants



## 8. Rainbow writing/ words

First write each word in pencil. Then trace over each word three times. Each time you trace, you should use a different coloured pencil. Trace neatly and you will see a rainbow.

or



Write each of your spelling words. Write each letter using a different coloured pencil. E.g. **colourful**

## 9. Connect the Dots

Write your spelling words in dots.

Then connect the dots by tracing over them with a coloured pencil.



**10. Please remember spellings do not always have to be written with a pen and paper. For some children the sensation of feeling the formation of the word helps to commit it to memory. You could also try some of these activities-**

**Delicious Words**

Spray a small amount of whipped cream on a plate and spread it out. Write your spelling words in the cream. Be sure to clean up afterwards. This can be done at bath time too, practice writing the word into the water. Be sure not to make a wet mess!

**3D Words**

Use play-doh or clay to make your spelling words

**Toss A Word**

Toss or roll a ball back and forth with a partner. You say the first letter, and then toss the ball and your partner says the second letter, and so forth.

**Sound Words**

Use a tape recorder to record your spelling words and their spelling. Then rewind your tape and listen to it, checking to see that you have spelled all the words.

**Type 'Em**

Type your spelling words on the computer. Make each of your spelling words a different colour and font.

**Dusty Words**

Write your words in the sand or on sandpaper.