

Make it an acrostic

Sometimes, visualising a difficult word in a different way can suddenly make it stick. Create a phrase from each letter of a word and turn it into an acrostic, which can be easier to remember than the word itself. Try these, or have your child make up their own!

Because:

Big
Elephants
Can
Always
Understand
Small
Elephants

Said:

Silly
Ants
In
Dungarees

Spell on the fridge

Using magnetic letters, put each of their spelling words up on the fridge when you get the list. Each day choose a word or two and take away one of the letters or sounds. Ask them to correct the word which has been messed with!

Paint in water

On a warm day there is no other more satisfying, mess-free activity than taking a proper decorator's brush and a bucket of water outside for children to paint with. Combine this with having them write their words in the water, and you've covered fun and learning in one super activity. (Plus writing huge letters is fantastic handwriting practice.)

Chalk it

Using chalk is great! Similar to wipeable whiteboards, erasing mistakes with ease it is great for learning words as it is practical and reduces the stress at the thought of 'getting things wrong'. Have your child write out each word in chalk and then check their work themselves. You can do this outside in the garden, on paving or even on the wall.

Simple ways
to make spelling fun!



Highlight the hard bit

Frequently, there will be one part of a word that trips up your child each time. Look at the word together and highlight the part that they find particularly tricky.

For example:

Night Was What Two Friend Said

Once you've done the highlighting together, get them to write out the word again without looking. This time they'll be more focused on getting that tricky bit right, and will be able to remember how it looks.

Scrabble spell

Invest in a Scrabble set and make the weekly homework into a game. Have all the scrabble letters to hand. Ask your child to spell out each word. Add together the scores . Find out which word has the highest score and award suitable prizes!

Copy it, copy it, recall it

Use a chart like this:

Copy it	Copy it	Recall it
What	What	What

After your child has copied the word twice, fold the paper over so they can't see what they've written and ask them to have a go at writing the word unaided and without looking.

Another classic technique is known as

Look, cover, Write and Check.

So, they look at the word...

Cover the word...

Write the word...

And finally check it.

Say it as it's spelled

To remember **double s**, really stress and extend the sound: fussssssss.

To remember **double z**, again stress and extend it: buzzzzzzzzz.

In the palm of your hands

If your child is a kinaesthetic learner (in other words they learn best through doing), ask them to write each letter of the word into the palm of their hand or onto their leg with their finger.

Sing the word

Simply learn the word by saying or singing the letters out loud, developing a melody. This melody should then imprint in your child's memory; if they forget a spelling they will still remember the word's rhythm and sound, which will serve as a prompt.

Break it down

Try breaking down words to make each syllable easier to remember. Children learn to do this at school. Help them count how many 'beats' or syllables there are in a word by clapping the word together, one clap per syllable.

So, for two-syllable words...

Danger Dan / ger

Windmill Wind / mill

And for three-syllable words...

Relation Re / la / tion

Beautiful Beau / ti / ful

It may help to segment the words into a chart like this:

Syllable 1	Syllable 2	Syllable 3
Re	la	tion