Teaching Spelling and Phonics

A Handbook for Parents
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Why children need to learn to spell correctly?

- Poor spelling creates a bad impression - it's one of the first things a reader notices
- Examiners, teachers, prospective employers, often place a lot of weight on spelling
- Anxiety about spelling inhibits a child's writing, especially their choice of words
- Even in these days of word processors there are still times when we need to write

What children need to do and learn to improve their spelling:

- Develop an interest in words
- Have fun learning how to spell words in lots of different ways
- Feel safe about trying new words, not just words they're sure about
- Learn about, the way words are built up using syllables
- Know about the basic spelling patterns of English
- Have a range of memorizing strategies
- Explore the meanings of words
- Understand prefixes and suffixes
- Write for their own enjoyment, without the fear that they will be criticized
- Read for pleasure

Useful memorising strategies

When you come across a new word ALWAYS use the
LOOK - THINK - COVER - WRITE - CHECK method to memorize it.

**LOOK** carefully at the new word. How can you break it into smaller bits? Do any of the smaller bits remind you of the patterns of letters from other words?

**THINK** about the parts of the words, which might cause problems - double letters for instance, or a vowel that isn't pronounced as you would expect.

**COVER** the word and close your eyes. Try to see it in your mind's eye.

**WRITE** the word down without looking back.

**CHECK** to see if you're right. If not, look carefully at where you went wrong and try again.

**More Hot Tips**
* Whenever you have to copy a new word from the whiteboard, from a book, or from the dictionary, always try to write the whole word in one go. Don't keep looking back after every few letters.
Try finger-writing: while you're THINKing about the word, pretend to write it with your finger, on your desk or on your hand.

Mnemonics are useful for particularly tricky words, or for key spelling patterns:
- Ould – Oh, you, lucky duck (should, could, would)
- Ound – Oh you naughty duck (ground, found)
- Laugh – Laugh At Ugly Goat Hair
- Because – Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants
- Island – an island is land surrounded by water
- Necessary – 1 collar and 2 sleeves are necessary
- Piece – a piece of pie
- Parliament – Liam went to the Houses of parliament
- Separate – there is a rat in separate
- Secretary – a good secretary can keep a secret
- Terrible – Ribs feel terrible
- Business – going by bus is good business
- Rhythm – rhythm helps your two hips move
- Accommodation – 2 cats, 2 mice, 1 dog - accommodation
- Soldier – soldiers sometimes die in battle
- Quiet – keep quiet about my diet
- Guitar – I only play guitar when I’m drinking fruit juice

By the end of Reception, your child should be aiming to spell (and read) all of these words:

Why not check that your child can spell these words and let them colour in the bricks on the wall if they are successful?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
<th>an</th>
<th>as</th>
<th>at</th>
<th>if</th>
<th>In</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>is</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>of</td>
<td>off</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dad</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>back</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>get</td>
<td>big</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>him</td>
<td>his</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>got</td>
<td>up</td>
<td>mum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but</td>
<td>put</td>
<td>will</td>
<td>that</td>
<td>this</td>
<td>then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>them</td>
<td>with</td>
<td>see</td>
<td>for</td>
<td>now</td>
<td>down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look</td>
<td>too</td>
<td>the</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td>into</td>
<td>he</td>
<td>she</td>
<td>we</td>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>they</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>my</td>
<td>her</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...and for those looking for a challenge:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>went</th>
<th>it’s</th>
<th>from</th>
<th>children</th>
<th>just</th>
<th>help</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>said</td>
<td>have</td>
<td>like</td>
<td>so</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>were</td>
<td>there</td>
<td>little</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>when</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>what</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the words they cannot spell, why not turn these words into flash cards and place them around the house for your child to spell regularly?
By the end of Year 2 (KS1), your child should be aiming to spell (and read) all of these words:

Why not check that your child can spell these words and let them colour in the bricks on the wall if they are successful?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>don't</th>
<th>old</th>
<th>I'm</th>
<th>by</th>
<th>time</th>
<th>house</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>about</td>
<td>your</td>
<td>day</td>
<td>made</td>
<td>came</td>
<td>make</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>here</td>
<td>saw</td>
<td>very</td>
<td>put</td>
<td>oh</td>
<td>their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>Mrs</td>
<td>looked</td>
<td>called</td>
<td>asked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>could</td>
<td>water</td>
<td>away</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>want</td>
<td>over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>how</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>man</td>
<td>going</td>
<td>where</td>
<td>would</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>took</td>
<td>school</td>
<td>think</td>
<td>home</td>
<td>who</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>didn't</td>
<td>ran</td>
<td>know</td>
<td>bear</td>
<td>can't</td>
<td>again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cat</td>
<td>long</td>
<td>things</td>
<td>new</td>
<td>after</td>
<td>wanted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eat</td>
<td>everyone</td>
<td>our</td>
<td>two</td>
<td>has</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take</td>
<td>thought</td>
<td>dog</td>
<td>well</td>
<td>find</td>
<td>more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'll</td>
<td>round</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>magic</td>
<td>shouted</td>
<td>us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>food</td>
<td>fox</td>
<td>through</td>
<td>way</td>
<td>been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>must</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>door</td>
<td>right</td>
<td>sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>these</td>
<td>began</td>
<td>boy</td>
<td>animals</td>
<td>never</td>
<td>next</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first</td>
<td>work</td>
<td>lots</td>
<td>need</td>
<td>that's</td>
<td>baby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fish</td>
<td>gave</td>
<td>mouse</td>
<td>something</td>
<td>bed</td>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>still</td>
<td>found</td>
<td>live</td>
<td>say</td>
<td>soon</td>
<td>night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narrator</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>car</td>
<td>couldn't</td>
<td>three</td>
<td>head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>king</td>
<td>town</td>
<td>I've</td>
<td>around</td>
<td>every</td>
<td>garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fast</td>
<td>only</td>
<td>many</td>
<td>laughed</td>
<td>let's</td>
<td>much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suddenly</td>
<td>told</td>
<td>another</td>
<td>great</td>
<td>why</td>
<td>cried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep</td>
<td>room</td>
<td>last</td>
<td>jumped</td>
<td>because</td>
<td>even</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>am</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>gran</td>
<td>clothes</td>
<td>tell</td>
<td>key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fun</td>
<td>place</td>
<td>mother</td>
<td>sat</td>
<td>boat</td>
<td>window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sleep</td>
<td>feet</td>
<td>morning</td>
<td>queen</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>its</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>different</td>
<td>let</td>
<td>girl</td>
<td>which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inside</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>any</td>
<td>under</td>
<td>hat</td>
<td>snow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air</td>
<td>trees</td>
<td>bad</td>
<td>tea</td>
<td>top</td>
<td>eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fell</td>
<td>friends</td>
<td>box</td>
<td>dark</td>
<td>grandad</td>
<td>there's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>looking</td>
<td>end</td>
<td>than</td>
<td>best</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>hot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key spelling patterns

Children need to be taught useful spelling patterns and rules. One good technique is to begin by giving children a list of words to sort. Then ask them to look carefully at how they sorted the words, and see if they can spot the spelling rule. Finish by explaining the rule, giving further words, and see if the children can use the rule to sort the words more quickly.

Home spellings should usually follow a pattern based on what the children have been working on in school so that it is easier for you to help your child to learn their spellings.

The Importance of Syllables in Spelling

All good spellers are skilful at breaking words up into syllables.

- care-ful
- hos-pit-al
- u-ni-ver-si-ty

Breaking a word into syllables makes it easier to deal with one small bit at a time.

Prefixes as an aid to spelling

A prefix is a group of letters placed at the start of a root word to change its meaning. Some complicated words are less difficult to spell if you are familiar with prefixes.

Here are some common examples in the following list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREFIX</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anti-</td>
<td>against or opposite to</td>
<td>anticlockwise, antibiotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auto-</td>
<td>self</td>
<td>autobiograpy, automat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dis-</td>
<td>not, or away</td>
<td>dissimilar, disconnect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in-</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>insane, inhuman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il-</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>illogical, illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>im-</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>immature, improbable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ir-</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>irrelevant, irregular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inter-</td>
<td>between</td>
<td>international, intermarry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mis-</td>
<td>wrong</td>
<td>misunderstand, misspell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-</td>
<td>after</td>
<td>postnatal, postscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pre-</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>prenatal, prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pro-</td>
<td>for, or forward</td>
<td>propose, pro-British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re-</td>
<td>again, or back</td>
<td>rewrite, reconsider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub-</td>
<td>under</td>
<td>submarine, substandard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>super-</td>
<td>above</td>
<td>supervisor, superhuman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trans-</td>
<td>across</td>
<td>transport, transplant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un-</td>
<td>not, or in reverse</td>
<td>unfinished, unarmed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Suffixes - their importance in spelling

A suffix is simply an ending that's added to a base word to form a new word. A key thing to know about a suffix is whether it starts with a consonant or a vowel.

Adding a suffix to “magic e” words
When you add a consonant suffix the base word doesn't change. When you add a vowel suffix, drop the silent e. Remember to drop the e when adding a vowel suffix. (Note that y is regarded as a vowel suffix, so laze + y = lazy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base word</th>
<th>+consonant suffix</th>
<th>Base word</th>
<th>+vowel suffix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hope</td>
<td>hopeless</td>
<td>note</td>
<td>notable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>statement</td>
<td>calculate</td>
<td>calculation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spite</td>
<td>spiteful</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>late</td>
<td>lately</td>
<td>late</td>
<td>latest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extreme</td>
<td>extremely</td>
<td>expense</td>
<td>expensive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adding suffixes to words ending -ce and -ge

There are exceptions to the above “magic e” rule – which is why it's probably better to call it a pattern rather than a rule. Here's the main one:
Where the base word ends in -ce or -ge, then you keep the silent e before -able and -ous. So:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>enforce + able</td>
<td>= enforceable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>notice + able</td>
<td>= noticeable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service + able</td>
<td>= serviceable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>courage + ous</td>
<td>= courageous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outrage + ous</td>
<td>= outrageous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**When should you doubling consonants when adding a suffix?**

Luckily there’s a very useful pattern to help us.

If the base word has:
- one syllable
- one short vowel
- one consonant at the end

you **double the final consonant** when you add a **vowel suffix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Word</th>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>New Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bed + ing</td>
<td>= bedding,</td>
<td>flat + est = flattest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fun + y</td>
<td>= funny</td>
<td>hot + er = hotter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the base word has:
- one syllable
- one short vowel
- one consonant at the end

you **keep the base word the same** when you add a **consonant suffix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Word</th>
<th>suffix</th>
<th>New Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bag + ful</td>
<td>= bagful,</td>
<td>wet + ness = wetness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Suffixes and Stressed Syllables**

If the stress is on the **first syllable** the base word **doesn’t change**:

- Profit - profitable
- Enter - entered
- Order - ordering

If the stress is on the **last syllable**, **double** the final consonant before adding a **vowel suffix**.

No change if a consonant suffix is added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Word</th>
<th>suffix</th>
<th>New Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begin - beginning</td>
<td>Equip - equipped</td>
<td>Regret - regretful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commit - commitment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adding a suffix to words ending y**

There are two important patterns to learn:

* If the word ends in a vowel +y, the base word doesn't change:
  - delay + ed = delayed
  - employ + ment = employment

* If the word ends in a consonant +y, when you add any suffix except -ing, then change the y to i:
  - reply + ed = replied
  - busy + ness = business
Spelling words ending *ic* and *ick*

Same sound but two spellings. However there is a simple way to spot the difference.
The words with only one syllable end in -*ick*.
The words having more than one syllable end in -*ic*.
There are only a few exceptions to this pattern and these usually happen where two words are joined together as in homesick and candlestick.

Words ending -*er*, -*or*, and -*ar*

There are lots of words in English which end with the -*er* sound. But when you listen to these words you can’t be sure whether the sound is made by -*er*, -*or* or -*ar*.
There’s no easy rule but there are a few helpful word patterns:

- There are more than ten times as many words ending with -*er* than -*or* and -*ar* together. So, if you guess -*er* then there’s a good chance that you’ll be right!

- Verbs ending in a silent e usually change to nouns by ending -*er*:
  - dive/diver    wade/wader    write/writer    avenge/avenger

  - **-er** is also the most common way of ending a word for someone carrying out an action:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Person carrying out the action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reporting</td>
<td>reporter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playing</td>
<td>player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fighting</td>
<td>fighter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **-or** is used when the base word ends in -*ate*, -*ct*, -*it*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>calculate</th>
<th></th>
<th>create</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>contract</td>
<td></td>
<td>reflect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visit</td>
<td></td>
<td>exhibit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- There is no especially useful pattern to recognise words that end in -*ar* except to say that many of them finish with **-lar**:
  - regular    popular    similar    pillar
  But other than that it’s just a matter of memorizing the -*ar* words as you come across them. Mispronouncing the ending so that it rhymes with the -*ar*- in market is a handy memory trick.

Words ending *ical*, *icle* and *acle*
Adjectives all end with -ical, and the nouns end with -acle or -icle.

Handy Tip: Nearly all the words that end with this sound will be adjectives and will therefore end with -ical.

Practising Spellings At Home

Weekly spellings will be sent home and tested in school each week. Practising them should always be fun with a ‘little and often’ approach. A variety of games and activities should help to keep children interested and motivated. The main technique we encourage is the ‘Look, Cover, Write and Check’ routine which will be laid out on your child’s spelling sheet. You can also use the following websites to do the same thing:
- [http://www.ictgames.com/lcwc.html](http://www.ictgames.com/lcwc.html) (where you can enter your own words so better for weekly spelling lists).

The games and activities below have been designed for home learning, but they may also be used in the classroom.

1) Word Search:
Create your own word searches using your spelling words. There is a blank wordsearch and a blank crossword template on the website you can use and print off. Or use this link to get your computer to do it for you.

2) Spell – a – doodle:
Create a picture and use your spelling words to fill in the detail. Each word must be written three times. E.g. a picture of clouds would have the lines formed with spelling words. You can add to the challenge by giving specific picture topics. Using one word, the children draw a picture using the word over and over again to make the lines of their picture. E.g. if the focus word was house, the children might draw a house where the walls and windows are constructed with the word written over and over again. This activity allows children to repeatedly write the word and is basically the same as Look, say, cover, write and check within a more interesting context. Your child must check that the word is spelt accurately each time.

3) Air spelling:
Choose a spelling word. With your index finger write the word in the air slowly, say each letter. Your parent needs to remind you that you need to be able to ‘see’ the letters you have written in the air. When you have finished writing the word underline it and say the word again. Now get you parents to ask you questions the about the
word. For example they could ask ‘What is the first letter?’ ‘What is the last letter?’ ‘How many letters are there?’ etc. You could also do this using sparklers (with an adult nearby!) around bonfire night.

4) **Media Search:**
Using a newspaper or magazine you have 15 minutes to look for your spelling words. Circle them in different coloured crayon. Which of your spellings words was used the most times?

5) **Shaving Cream Practice:**
An easy way to clean those dirty tables is to finger paint on them with shaving cream. Squirt some on the table (with your parents permission and supervision!) and then practice spelling your words by writing them with your finger in the shaving cream.

6) **Salt Box Spelling:**
Ask your parents pour salt into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) and then practice writing your spellings in it with your finger.

7) **Scrabble Spelling:**
Find the letters you need to spell your words and then mix them up in the bag. Get your parents to time you unscrambling your letters. For extra maths practice you could find out the value of each of your words!

8) **Pyramid Power:**
Sort your words into a list from easiest to hardest. Write the easiest word at the top of the page near the middle. Write the next easiest word twice underneath. Write the third word three times underneath again until you have built your pyramid.

9) **Ransom Note:**
Cut the letters needed to form your words from a newspaper or magazine and glue them down to spell the words.

10) **Spell It With Beans:**
Use Lima beans (or any dried beans or lentils) to spell out your words. If you glue them onto separate pieces of card then you made a great set of flash cards to practice with for the rest of the week.

11) **Pipe Cleaners Or Tooth Picks:**
These are just a couple of suggestions of things you could use to create your spelling words.

12) **Tasty Words:**
Just like above but this time try and find tasty things to spell your words with, like raisins. Then when you spell them right you get to eat them!

13) **Design A Word:**
Pick one word and write it in bubble letters. Colour in each letter in a different pattern. Write it in rainbow colours, e.g. p a i n t

14) **Sign Your Word:**
Practice spelling your words by signing each letter.
15) Water wash:
Use a paintbrush and water to write your words outside on concrete or pavements. You could also use chalk to do the same thing!

16) ABC Order:
Write your words out in alphabetical order. Then write them in reverse alphabetical order.

17) Story Time:
Write a short story using all your words. Don’t forget to check your punctuation!

18) Simple Sentence:
Write a sentence for each of your words. Remember each sentence must start with a capital letter and end with a full stop. Could you write a sentence that includes more than one, or even all of your words.

19) Colourful Words:
Use two different coloured pens to write your words. One to write the consonants and one to write the vowels. Do this a couple of times then write the whole word in one colour.

20) Memory Game:
Make pairs of word cards. Turn them all over and mix them up. Flip over two cards, if they match you get to keep them, if not you have to turn them over again. Try and match all the pairs.

21) Finger Tracing:
Use your finger to spell out each of your words on your mum or dad’s back. Then it’s their turn to write the words on your back for you to feel and spell.

22) Spelling Steps:
Write your words as if they were steps, adding one letter each time. (It’s much easier doing this on squared paper)

23) Scrambled Words:
Write your words then write them again with all the letters mixed up.

24) X-Words:
Find two of your spelling words with the same letter in and write them so they criss cross.

25) Ambidextrous:
Swap your pen into the hand that you don’t normally write with. Now try writing out your spellings with that hand.

26) Telephone Words:
Translate your words into numbers from the telephone keypad.

27) Secret Agent:
Write out the alphabet, then give each letter a different number from 1 to 26. (a = 1, b = 2, c = 3 etc.) Now you can spell out your words in secret code.

28) Missing Letters:
Ask your mum or dad to write out one of your words loads of times on piece of paper, but each time they have to miss out a letter or two. Then you have to fill in the missing letters. After you have checked them all try it again with another word.

29) Listen Carefully:
Ask your parents to spell out one of your words then you have to say what the word is they’ve spelt out.

30) Acrostic:
Use words that start with each letter in you spelling word. Your more likely to remember it if it makes sense.

Games you might have played before...!

*V A K refers to the child’s preferred learning style where: V =
Visual (learns from seeing)*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A = Auditory (learns from hearing)</strong></th>
<th><strong>K = Kinaesthetic (learns from doing)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIC-TAC-TOE</strong></td>
<td><strong>SAND, PAPER and PAINT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This game is similar to noughts and crosses but with key words. With two players, each person picks a word that is the most complex in the list and then cover it up. In each space, the child writes the word. They must make a row of three to win.</td>
<td>Using sand, children write with their fingers their spellings. This can also be used alongside look, say, cover, write and check. Children can use paint on paper in the same way and write their words with a paint brush or finger instead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This activity reinforces letter shape and common patterns of letters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **V K**                                                                                   | **COUNTDOWN/CONUNDRUMS**               |
|                                                                                           | The board game can be purchased but this is easy enough to set up yourself at home. From 2 packs of randomly selected vowels and consonants, pick 8 letters in total and beat the clock (you choose the time limit... but no more than 3 mins!) to create the longest correctly spelled word. |
|                                                                                           | Jumble up a known word to see if your child can solve the conundrum. |

| **V K**                                                                                   | **NUMBER PLATES**                     |
|                                                                                           | A game similar to COUNTDOWN. On a car journey, observe the number plates of cars: |
|                                                                                           | DG72 TRC                              |
|                                                                                           | The aim of the game is to take the group of three letters and keeping them in that order, make the longest word possible. From this number plate you could make the following words: |
|                                                                                           | Track                                 |
|                                                                                           | Trace                                 |
|                                                                                           | Terrific                              |
|                                                                                           | Tracing                               |
|                                                                                           | This game encourages children to think about words, and may even be able to extend an existing word by adding a prefix or suffix. |

| **V A**                                                                                  | **AND THE OBVIOUS ONES...**            |
|                                                                                           | HANGMAN                               |
|                                                                                           | JUNIOR SCRABBLE                       |
|                                                                                           | BOGGLE                                |
|                                                                                           | LOTTO                                 |
|                                                                                           | WORD SNAP                             |

Please also see the following posters for further ideas...
SUS

Study the word

Underline the difficult part(s)

Say the word carefully
“Writing the word”

- On someone’s back
- On your desk (large)
- With your eyes
How often can you write the word correctly in one minute?
Mnemonics

Making up a “story” to help spell a word

was — was auntie sad?
Breaking the words into parts / clapping the sounds

going
running
returned

Look for small words
inside the word

about - a, out, bout

teacher - tea, each, her, ache

Be positive

We shall try our best
Words that look the same
Think

back is like ...
pack and sack

Use of colours
Use a different colour for each letter.

Odd one out
• Work with others
• From a list of three words, think of reasons why each word is different:

  going  green  big

Different sizes of letters
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>woman – WoMaN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>returning – ReTuRnInG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shapes of words
Draw the shape of the word

Making words with letters
• Put all the letters in an arc
• Listen to word
• Place letters in boxes

In sand

• or using different materials (paint)
• different textures (sandpaper)

Visualising

• Look at your word
• “Throw” it at the wall
• Can you still “see” it?
• Spell it aloud

Writing the word in fancy letters
• Bubble writing
• Cursive
• Italics

Use a spelling rule
• “i” before “e” except after “c”
• change the “y” to “i” and add “es”

Look-

Say-
Cover-Write-Check-✅
Using post-its

• place post-its in suitable places at eye level
Recording your own voice

• say the word
• spell the word
• listen
• echo
Three Times

Write the word 3 times in different colours

three three three three

Pyramid Writing

Write your word in the shape of a pyramid
Consonant Circles

Write the word then circle all the consonants.

Blue vowels
Write the word then go over each vowel in blue

because

Words without vowels

b _ c _ _ s _
Write each word with a line instead of each vowel. Go back later and fill in the missing vowels.

**Websites**

**Online games, videos and apps for children**

http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/
Great games – can link to Letters and Sounds, select letters used in each game (some games only available through subscription but many are free!

www.starfall.com
Phonic games and phonic stories

http://www.mrthorne.com/
Great site with loads of video clips – lots of apps for iPad and iPhones too!

http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html
Great range of phonics games, mainly Reception and Key Stage 1

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/literacy/
Great range of phonics games, mainly Reception and Key Stage 1

www.spellingcity.com
Requires registration but many features are available without purchase. Customers can pay to upgrade and access the full portfolio of activities offered by this American site.

http://www.timespellingbee.co.uk/Training/Default.aspx
A whole site full of practice games for all levels.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/spellits/index.shtml
A series of spelling activities taking place within the context of mystery solving, adventures and challenges.

http://www.learner.org/interactives/spelling/index.html
An American site but provides good SATs-style practice for spelling within dictation passages (just like the Y6 SATs test!)

Spelling Apps

Most apps by Mr Thorne are really good, but especially the Spellbook app.