

SPELLING ACTIVITIES

It has been found that children learn to spell better, quicker and more easily if they are given short but fun activities. Below are some suggestions for spelling activities that you may wish to try out at home to support your child in learning their personal spellings.

1. SPELLING ALOUD

Using flashcards of the spellings, you read a word aloud. Your child then spells the word out loud. If they spell correctly, they 'win' the card. If they are incorrect, the card is put to the bottom of the pile. You can take turns with your child and the 'winner' is the one who has most cards at the end of the game.

2. SPELLING TENNIS

You may have seen this one on the television programme 'Hardspell'. Older children really enjoy this one as it can be quite challenging. You and your child spell the word by saying alternative letters until the whole word is spelt. If a mistake is made the word is then spelt again and then put to the bottom of the pile. Correct words are discarded.

3. MUDDLED LETTERS

Children rewrite each of their spelling words in a muddled up fashion eg 'beautiful' could be written 'befitualu'. It is better if they always put the initial letter in the correct place. This is a great activity, as pupils have to scrutinise each word to make sure they have got all the correct letters. These muddled lists are then given to someone at home to try and guess the spellings.

4. DICTIONARY RACE

Children have a dictionary. Someone at home calls out one of their spelling words. The idea is to locate the word in the dictionary as fast as you can. This not only helps your child to remember how to spell, it is also excellent for practising dictionary skills. You can turn it into a game by giving them counters to win or use a stopwatch to get the quickest time.

5. WORDS WITHIN WORDS

Children try to find smaller words inside each of their spelling words without rearranging the letters. E.g. using the word 'practising', you could find - 'act' 'sing' 'in' 'is'. Set a time limit, say 10 minutes, for them to work individually to find as many as possible using all their spelling words.

6. SILLY STORY

Children write a short story (about a paragraph) using as many of their spelling words as possible. The stories are usually very silly so children enjoy this activity.

7. KIM's GAME

Spelling words are written on cards and laid out on the table. The child studies the words and looks away while someone else removes *one* of the cards. The child then looks at the remaining cards and then has 2 minutes to write the missing word down. Check the word against the removed card.

8. WORDSEARCH

Using squared paper, children make a wordsearch with their spelling words. Words are NOT written out underneath. They need to look really closely to make sure that they haven't made a mistake and that they have included all their words. The wordsearch can then be given to someone at home to see how many words they can find.

9. LUCKY DIP

Children take turns to pick out 12 plastic letters from a bag. They mustn't look into the bag, as it is 'lucky dip'. The picked letters are placed in front of them and the rest of the letters are left in the bag. The idea is to make one of their spelling words out of the letters. The pupils take turns to pick one new letter out of the bag and discard one that they don't want any more. This carries on until one of their spelling words can be made.

10. GUESS THE WORD

One person chooses one of the spelling words and then writes it down, one letter at a time. They can begin *anywhere* in the word - it does not have to be at the beginning. The other people tries to guess the word after each letter is added. If they guess correctly, they must spell the whole word to win the point. The fewer letters that have been given - the more points to be won.

11. CROSSWORD

Using squared paper, children make a crossword using their spelling words. Definitions are written below to form the clues. Someone at home can then complete the crossword.

INTERACTIVE WEBSITES

Interactive free website www.spellingcity.com this is a great website! Pupils type in the words they are learning. The site recognises any misspellings and asks them to check and re-enter. The pupils can choose whether to be taught how to spell the word or a choice of several games all using their own words!