



Helping your child to learn spellings

A few ideas to help you help your child...

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 Separate Was Receive 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

Look, cover, Write and Check.

Look at the word...

Cover the word...

Write the word...

And finally check it.

Create pictures in your mind

It's a well-researched memory trick: if you can conjure up a visual image, what you're trying to remember (in this case spellings!) may come more readily.

For example, if your child is learning 'bank' but writing 'banc', help them remember it's a 'kicking K' by saying, "I kicked my legs into the bank". If they're writing 'cat' as 'kat' remind them it's a 'curly c' by saying, "The cat likes to curl up and go to sleep". Encourage your child to invent their own ways of remembering words; if they have thought up the image themselves, it will be a more powerful tool.

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't
Always
Use
Small
Exits

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. With enough repetitions, they'll remember how the word felt to write (this is known as muscle memory).

