



Handy Hints for Learning Spellings

Make your words vanish

Write out the spelling words on a chalkboard and then paint them away with a paint brush and water. This helps children follow the shape of the letters and learn them in sequence.

Finger – pen – paint

Write out the words in large letters on a sheet of paper. Trace them out with your finger, then draw over them with a pen, then paint over them.

Alphabet splat

Write out a really big alphabet of letters. Say your spelling word and then splat the letters, in order, with your hands or jump from letter to letter. Great for action kids! And if you stand in the centre of the alphabet and use both hands to splat your letters you get to practise **crossing the mid-line**, giving you an extra brain boost.

Hopscotch ladders

You don't only have to learn how to spell indoors. Write out your words in chalk in the garden and hop, skip or jump along your word ladders, saying the letters out loud as you go. Sounding out the letters adds in an extra sense and brain function to all the activities.

Salt tray

Fill a shallow box or tray with salt or sand and draw out your words with your finger or a paint brush. Taking the spellings away from a pencil and paper can be much more appealing to children, and you're adding in an extra sensory dimension by using the touchy-feely salt. Making some colourful backgrounds to lay under the salt gives you a nice surprise to reveal with your letters.

Sensory treasure hunt

Take a sensory tub and hide some magnetic letters inside. Pick out letters and make your words.

Air Spelling

Choose a spelling word. With your index finger, spell the word in the air and say the letters aloud.

Letter Tiles

Use the letter tiles (from Scrabble) to spell out your spelling words. After you have arranged the letters, check to see that you have spelled it correctly. Cover up each word and try to spell it from memory.

Rhyme Time

Make a short rhyme for each of your words. Do you see any similarities between your spelling words and each of the rhyming words?

Headlines!

Cut letters out of newspapers and magazines to spell your words. Paste them on a piece of paper.

Color and Cut

Write each word with a thick crayon. Cut out the letters. Arrange them in the correct order to spell each word. Paste them on a piece of paper.

Tic-Tac-Toe

Play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. Instead of writing X's and O's, write a different spelling word in each square. You'll score in spelling as well as in Tic-Tac-Toe!

Code Words

Swap spelling lists with a friend. Write each other's words in a secret code (make up your own code or use one of the many common ones). Swap papers and decode the words. Check to make sure your friend spelled the words correctly.

Words of Playdough

Use dough to form the letters of each word. Put the letters in order to spell the word. Say each letter softly to yourself.

Practice makes Perfect

Find a friend and give each other an oral spelling test. The person who misses the most words must be the other person's slave for the day (or any other appropriate penalty).

Figure This

Print each of your spelling words. Then draw around each word. Study the shape or "figure" of each word.

Now Hear This!

Tape record the spelling of your words. Say each word and then spell it. Play the tape back and check the spelling of each word.

1-2-3

Classify your words according to syllables. One syllable, two syllables, three syllables.

Spin a Yarn

Glue wool on pieces of heavy paper so that it spells each of your words. Close your eyes and have a friend hand you your cards one at a time. Feel the wool spelling on each card. Say the word and spell it.

Puzzle Me this

Write each word on a card. Cut each card in half, using a different pattern or design for each card. Shuffle the pieces and then match each half.

Bingo!

Play Bingo with your words. Get at least one person to play with you. Each person writes their spelling words on a Bingo playing card. Place spelling word cards in a common pile. Shuffle. To play: draw a card and call out the word. As the word is called, cover it on your individual Bingo cards.

Match It

This is a partner game that is also known as Go Fish. Find a friend. Write your words on cards so that you have two cards for each word. Deal out part of the stack. Ask your partner for a particular word. If they do not have it, draw from the remaining stack. Scoring: 1 point per match if it is your partner's word, and 2 points per match for your own word.

String-a-Word

String letter beads on a string to spell each word.

Find A Word

Make a word find puzzle with a friend. Swap lists of spelling words and use the list to make a word find puzzle. Write all of the words on graph paper and then fill in the empty boxes around the words with other letters. Swap puzzles, and go to work!