

Have fun with spellings!

Use different pens, highlighters or pencils to spell each word or for each letter in the word. Practise writing them out in a shape or round in a spiral, like a snail! Or make a pyramid by writing the first letter then the first and second letter and so on:

b
be
bec
beca
becau
becaus
because

Have fun. Here are some more games you could try:

Hidden words

Write the words on your child's spelling list, hidden in a series of letters. Now that they are hidden, ask your child to find them. For example:

sfhplayknc - play

qrubitpdh - bit

nvzbikejfa - bike

Your child could circle the hidden words with coloured pens. To raise the challenge, you could set a time limit on the game. For example, how many words can you find in one minute?

Making silly sentences

Challenge your child to write a silly sentence, including as many of the words on their spelling list as possible. For example, your child may have to learn 'room, took, hoop, foot, book'. They could make up a silly sentence such as 'The boy took his book across the room but got his foot caught in a hoop'. Again they could draw illustrations to go with the sentences.

Spelling bingo

Print/write and cut out the words your child has to learn. Draw out a bingo board and write some of the spellings in the boxes. Every time your child 'gets' a spelling word, go through the spelling together and then cover it and ask them to spell it again.

Spelling pairs

This classic memory game is a great way to get them recognising and remembering words. Draw or print a word grid and write each spelling word in a new box. You will need to write each word twice (each in a separate box). Cut them out, making sure you have two of each spelling word. Then turn them over and mix them up, ensuring they are organised randomly.

Challenge your child to turn over two pieces of paper and then read each word. Are they a pair? If not, turn them back over and repeat this until they find matching pairs. Once they have found a pair, look at the spelling together and then ask your child to spell the word without looking.

Mnemonic

There is a classic mnemonic to help children remember how to spell 'because': big elephants can always understand small elephants. Make up your own silly mnemonics together to help your child remember tricky words they struggle with.

Play it back

Record your child spelling out each word on your smartphone or tablet. When you practice them, ask your child to write down each spelling word and then play their own voice reading it back to them. It's amazing how much this amuses and motivates them.

Race against the clock

If your child is competitive, see if you can motivate them by introducing an element of challenge to the world of practising spellings. Using your stopwatch on your phone, time your child as you call out the spelling words and they write them. Make a note of their time and score and then on the following day, challenge them to smash their personal best.

Enjoy!