

## Supporting spelling strategies

Lots of children learn in different ways, which is why teaching them requires a range of approaches. Below is a list of different activities that could be used to help your child practise their spellings.

- One of the most common ways to practise spellings is Look, say, cover.  
Look at the word  
Say it out loud  
Then they Cover the word and write the word from memory
- Listening for the sounds and breaking them down. (we call these spelling fingers at Holmesdale) these are used to help children spell words which are decodable e.g. not tricky words like you, my, what



We teach children to use their fingers to break down words into their individual sounds to assist spelling. When children look at their own fingers, it allows them to visualise each sound of the word on a single finger.

- Hangman Play hangman with a partner, using the words you are learning
- Quickwrite: Writing the words with speed and fluency. The aim is to write as many words as possible within a time limit.
- Drawing around the word to show the shape. To do this draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape.



- Drawing an image around the word. This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable. You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.



- Words without vowels. This strategy is useful where the vowel choices are the challenge in the words. Write the words without the vowels and pupils have to choose the correct grapheme to put in the space. For example, for the word field:

f \_ \_ \_ ld

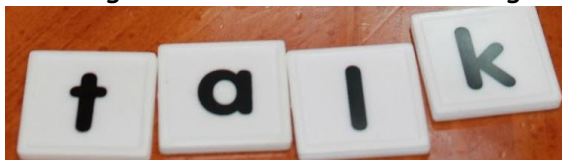
- Pyramid words This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately. You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.

p  
 py  
 pyr  
 pyra  
 pyram  
 pyrami  
 pyramid

- Rainbow writing: Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour. You could also write each letter in a different colour, or write the word in red, then overlay in orange, yellow and so on.



- Jumbled letters: Write your word on paper, cut each letter and put the word back together. You could also use magnetic letters for this.



- Mnemonic Write a mnemonic to remind you of the spelling. The first letter of each word in the sentence spells the word. e.g. because; betty eats carrots and uncle sells eggs.

- Use different materials to spell  
E.g. draw it on the floor with chalk  
Use paint to paint the word on paper or paint it on the ground outside using water.  
Write it sand, rice, flour, glitter  
Use playdough to make letters to spell or use a toothpick to spell the word on playdough



- Silly Sentences: Ask your child to write a silly sentence using a spelling word in each sentence. Encourage them to underline their spelling words. Example: My dog wears a blue and purple dress when he takes a bath.