

Universal Strategies for teaching Spellings at home

Play letter and word games

1. Finding words within words: give your child a long word and see how many words they can make from it from 2 letter words up to the longest they can make!
2. Rhyming words: show a word and see how many rhyming words you can make e.g. can, pan, man – look at the spellings of each



Create mnemonics for tricky words

Children can have lots of fun making up mnemonics for words e.g. Because – ‘big elephants can always understand small elephants’ or busy – ‘badgers use small yachts’

Spelling Apps for an Ipad or phone

There are a number of free Apps available to download for students to play spelling games on. Please ensure that parental locks are in place when using these.

Memory games

General memory games are always useful to develop your child’s ability to retain information. Here are a few ideas:

1. A pairs game where cards are turned over and your child has to find the pairs. You may already have a game like this at home that could be used.
2. Kim’s game- where you put items on a tray and then secretly take one away and they have to say which item is missing. This can be adapted by showing the tray, then hiding it and getting your child to write down as many items as they can remember.

Spelling activities to support students to remember

There are a number of activities that can be done to support your child to remember how to spell tricky words:

1. Ransom letter – give your child the spelling list and get them to cut out the letters from a newspaper and stick on a piece of paper to create the word
2. Fancy writing – give you child the spellings and then get them to write them in funny writing (fancy, curly, wiggly- whatever they want). It can be fun for children to do this in different colours or in bubble writing to help the spellings to stay in their memory.

Put up tricky words around the house

If there are certain words that you child is struggling with, it could be useful to put them up around the house – or in their bedroom. Every now and then, ask them how to spell these words.