



Here are a few practical ideas you may like to use to help your child practise their spellings (as well as spelling shed of course) if you are finding they are struggling or losing interest. These strategies are particularly good for practical or visual learners.

1. **Look, Cover, Write, Check** – Look at the words, cover them up, write what you think, check if it is correct. Then focus on learning the tricky bit.
2. **Quick Quiz** – On Day 1 do a quick quiz where you test your child on the words. Identify which words and which bits of words they find tricky. Make these the focus for practise for the rest of the week.
3. **Flashcards** – make flash cards or posters with your words and put them somewhere you will see them regularly so you can practise by looking at the word then closing your eyes and saying the letters out loud then checking against the poster. Near the loo, sofa or in the car are a good place to put these posters!
4. **Listen Carefully:** Ask your parents to spell out one of your spelling words, then you need to say what the word is they've spelt out.
5. **Pyramid Power:** Sort your words into a list from easiest to hardest. Write the easiest word at the top of the page near the middle. Write the next easiest word twice underneath. Write the third word three times underneath again until you have built your pyramid.
6. **Simple Sentence:** Write a sentence for each of your words. Remember each sentence must start with a capital letter and end with a full stop.
7. **Colourful Words:** Use two different coloured pens to write your words. One to write the consonants and one to write the vowels. Do this a couple of times then write the whole word in one colour.
8. **Word pyramid:** Write the word out in a pyramid. On the top line write the first letter; then below this write the first two letters, then below this write the first three letters; and so on until you have built the whole word in a triangle shape.
9. **Word Search:** Create your own word searches using your spelling words. Or use this link to get your computer to do it for you <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>
10. **Air spelling:** Choose a spelling word. Write the word in the air slowly, say each letter. Your parent needs to remind you that you need to be able to 'see' the letters you have written in the air. When you have finished writing the word underline it and say the word again. Now get you parents to ask you questions the about the word. For example they could ask 'What is the first letter?' 'What is the last letter?' 'How many letters are there?' etc.
11. **Media Search:** Using a newspaper or magazine or photocopies from a book, you have 15 minutes to look for your spelling words. Circle them in different colours. Which of your spelling words was used the most?
12. **Shaving Cream Practice:** An easy way to clean those dirty tables is to finger paint on them with shaving cream. Squirt some on the table (with your parents' permission and supervision!) and then practise spelling your words by writing them with your finger in the shaving cream.
13. **Salt/Flour/Sand Spelling:** Ask your parents pour salt/flour/sand into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) and then practise writing you spellings in it with your finger.
14. **Scrabble Spelling:** Find the letters you need to spell you words and then mix them up in the bag. Get your parents to time you unscrambling your letters.

15. **Ransom Note:** Cut the letters needed for your words from a newspaper or magazine and glue them down to spell the words.
16. **Spell It with Beans:** Use any dried beans or lentils to spell out your words. If you glue them onto separate pieces of card, then you made a great set of flash cards to practise with for the rest of the week.
17. **Pipe Cleaners or Toothpicks:** These are just a couple of suggestions of things you could use to make your spelling words.
18. **Tasty Words:** Just like above but this time try and find tasty things to spell your words with, like raisins. Then when you spell them right you get to eat them!
19. **Design a Word:** Pick one word and write it in bubble letters. Colour in each letter in a different pattern.
20. **Acrostic:** Write an acrostic poem using each letter from your word.
21. **Water wash:** Use a paintbrush and water to write your words outside on concrete or pavements.
22. **ABC Order:** Write your words out in alphabetical order. Then write them in reverse alphabetical order.
23. **Story Time:** Write a short story using all your words. Don't forget to check your punctuation!
24. **Memory Game:** Make pairs of word cards. Turn them all over and mix them up, flip over two cards, if they match you get to keep them, if not you have to turn them over again. Try and match all the pairs.
25. **Finger Tracing:** Use your finger to spell out each of your words on your mum or dad's back. Then it's their turn to write the words on your back for you to feel and spell.
26. **Scrambled Words:** Write your words then write them again with all the letters mixed up.
27. **X-Words:** Find two of your spelling words with the same letter in and write them so they criss-cross.
28. **Ambidextrous:** Swap your pen into the hand that you don't normally write with. Now try writing out your spellings with that hand.
29. **Missing Letters:** Ask your mum or dad to write out one of your words loads of times on piece of paper, but each time they have to miss out a letter or two. Then you have to fill in the missing letters