

How to Help your Child with Spelling



At Thurnham, we set spelling homework in Year 1 and Year 2.

Year 1 focus initially on the tricky words and the most common 100 words that pupils will use in their writing. By the end of Year 1 it is expected that children will be able to spell most of these words.

In Year 2 spelling focuses on spelling rules and research has shown that when pupils understand these rules then they find spelling easier.

But spelling does not always come easy to all children, so we have put together some ideas to help your children at home. These ideas are also supported by the *British Dyslexia Association*.

- Encourage children to use their phonics: break words into sounds and match them to letters. For example, break the word "frog" into the sounds "f", "r", "o", and "g".
- When spelling tricky words talk about which bit of the word is tricky. For example: In the word **was**, both the a (making the o sound) and the s (making the z sound) are trying to trick us.
- Teach syllables: Help your child understand that words are made up of syllables, and each syllable has a vowel sound. You can ask your child how many syllables are in a word, and then help them spell each syllable. Clapping out syllables is a fun way to remember them.
- Use flashcards or matching games to help your child see words repeatedly.
- Use mnemonics: Create silly sentences where the first letter of each word spells out the word you want to learn. For example: Because = **B**ig **E**lephants **C**an **A**lways **U**nderstand **S**mall **E**lephants.
- Use cut-out letters or magnetic letters to build words together, then mix up the letters and rebuild the word.

- Write words in different ways: different coloured pens, in sand, in flour, in shaving foam.
- Use the **look, cover, write, check** method: Have your child look at a word, cover it, imagine it in their head, and then write it from memory.
- Speedwriting: how many times can they write the word in 1 minute?
- Find smaller words in larger words: Help your child find smaller words within larger words.
- Can they spot the correct spelling? You write the word three times, two times incorrectly and one is the correct spelling.
- Review spelling rules: Review spelling rules with your child, such as the fact that a "q" is always followed by a "u".
- Keep it fun: Keep spelling activities short and fun, and do them regularly.

Below are listed some websites where you can play games for children to practise their spellings.

<https://ictgames.com/littleBirdSpelling/> Great for those tricky words!

<https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/forestPhonics/index.html>

A fun game to practise spelling using phonics.

<https://spellingframe.co.uk/> A fun way to practise spelling rules.

<https://www.spellingplay.co.uk/> Lots of games and resources.

Please contact your child's teacher, Mrs Prior (Phonics, Reading and Spelling Lead) or Mrs Pateman (Inclusion Manager) if you need any further help or information.