

Ways to Practise Spelling Words at Home

If you're like most parents, you spend a lot of time having your child recite their spelling words out loud to make sure they know them. Interestingly enough, few children are required to spell their words out loud for a test-so let's look at other ways!

What students really need to know is how to write, recognize and define their spelling words. Try a few new ways to practice spelling that are less like a spelling bee and more like spelling should be.

You and your child can:

1. Create a set of [flashcards](#). Have your child write their spelling word in pencil on one side of an index card. There are some ways to use flashcards other than using them to quiz her. They can:

- Trace the word in pen or marker to reinforce knowing the letters and shape the word makes when it's spelled correctly.
- Read the word, turn the card over, write it again and flip to check their accuracy.

2. Create a second set of flashcards with the definition of the word on it. If possible, use a different colour index card than the first set. They can:

- Arrange the flashcards in rows, face down on the table.
- Each player takes a turn to pick up two cards, one of each colour. If the word and definition match, the player keeps the cards. If not, they put them back in the same place and it's the next player's turn.
- The players will have to remember the position of the cards in order to match them up. When all the cards are gone, the player with the most matches wins.

4. Use alphabet magnets or Scrabble tiles to spell out each word.

5. Write the word list on a piece of paper. Then cut the words apart into strips. Then, cut those words into letters and have your child reconstruct the list.

6. Write sentences for each word. Make sure to your child is using it in context to show that they understand the definition and part of speech their spelling words.

7. Type their spelling words on the computer. This will help to reinforce how to spell each words and help them recognize what the words will look like in a book or other reading material.

8. Write or type a story using all of their spelling words. The story doesn't have to be a masterpiece, but it should show that they know how to spell and use each word properly.

9. Use the [Spelling City website](#). Parents can register for the free version and input your child's spelling word lists. Your child can then play games and activities or take practice tests on the site.

10. Use [Discovery Education's puzzlemaker tool](#). You can create word searches using your child's spelling words.

11. Alphabetize the word list. This can be done either by writing them in alphabetical order or by using the flashcards.

12. Sit down with your child, two pencils and a piece of paper. Tell them the spelling word you'll be practicing and write the first letter of the word. Pass the paper to them so they can add the next letter. You add the letter after that, repeating until the word is spelled.

You can do this with all of their words and up the ante by having them write the next two or three letters before passing the paper back to you.

13. Create Mad Libs only using the spelling words. You can either buy Mad Libs books for just this purpose or find them online at [Wacky Web Tales](#).

14. Let your child play with their food. They can use a fork to trace their spelling words in their mashed potatoes or spell them out with alphabet cereal. Alternatively they could use a sand tray or a paint brush and water.

15. Use old magazines or newspapers to find spelling words and cut them out. It can be an interesting demonstration of how many times words are used in everyday writing.