



How to help your child learn spellings

You need to help your child look at the word they are learning for quite a long time, two or three minutes. They shouldn't just stare at it though. Help them notice different things about how it is written and find a special way to remember. Use the websites to get ideas.

Have paper and coloured pencils or pens ready to practise writing the words.

Spell by sounding out words sound by sound BUT notice which bits this doesn't work for, and help your child to remember those bits.

<https://www.beatingdyslexia.com/how-to-spell.html>

Look at each word and make the tricky bit distinctive by making it into a picture or a pattern. Try chunking the word into manageable bits. Write then out using a different colour for the tricky bit, or write the tricky bit really big.

<https://www.beatingdyslexia.com/spelling-help.html>

Vowels are often the hardest. Think about how the "o" in "apron" sounds. Is it an "uh" or an "a"? It doesn't sound much like an "o" for orange! Try writing the tricky vowel in a different colour or find a funny way of remembering. Saying words out loud in the way that they are spelt can help. Ay-pr-o-n instead of "ayprun" for example. Another example is impossible: im-poss-ible instead of "imposabl." Saying the syllables one at a time can really help, and it's quite funny!

<https://www.beatingdyslexia.com/vowel-lessons.html>

Learning about open and closed syllables can help a lot with knowing which vowel to use. Vowels ending open syllables represent long vowel sounds (ay, ee, I, oh and you). Single vowels in closed syllables represent short vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, uh).

<http://www.sightwordgame.com/spelling/words/open-syllable/>

and <https://www.allaboutlearningpress.com/how-to-teach-closed-and-open-syllables>

Spend 10 minutes or so each day if you can on some of these activities. After the first day, give your child a little test. Ask them to spell one of the words on their list. Look at how they have written the word compared to the correct way. They have probably got lots of it right. If a bit of it is wrong, help them notice and think of a good way to remember that tricky bit.

Remember-

Have fun, give lots of praise, laugh a lot together