



Tips for Practicing Spelling with Your Child

1. **Monday through Thursday, focus on 10 words per night and make sure your child knows how to READ and SPELL them. Our spelling words are those most frequently encountered in the English language.**
2. **Say the spelling word, use it in a meaningful sentence, then repeat the word for your child. Have your child softly sound the word as he or she writes it. (IMPORTANT: Sound out as phonograms, not as individual letters.) For example:
see → /s/ /ee/ play → /p/ /l/ /ay/
ee and ay are both two-letter phonograms**
3. **Use a *variety* of media during spelling practice, rather than always using paper and pencil. Some ideas: white boards, chalk, shaving cream, salt, paint, pudding, or magnetic letters.**
4. **RAINBOW WRITING!** Rainbow writing strengthens the child's visual memory and helps the child practice forming letters of correct size and shape (since he's tracing over correctly written words)
 - 1) Allow your child to choose 3-5 colors.
 - 2) Parent writes the spelling words neatly on index cards or on a piece of paper and gives the card (or paper) to the child
 - 3) The child picks up the lightest color and traces over the first word, sounding each phonogram as he writes over it (b-e-d); be sure to watch your child tracing to see if he starts letters in the correct places(i.e., top to bottom, at two o'clock when appropriate, left to right, etc.)
 - 4) The child picks up next color and retraces the same word, sounding each phonogram as he writes over it again (b-e-d), the the child repeats this using each color (b-e-d); color order should be lightest to darkest so that the next color shows up easily over the previously used color.
 - 5) The child reads the word multiple times when finished tracing and sounding
 - 6) The child moves on to next word card and repeats the process
5. **Make practice a game! Have your child sound words on the way to school, as they comb their hair, etc. Have fun with it!**

6. Again, be sure your child practices **READING** the words. All spelling words should become sight words. Print the words on index cards to make flashcards and practice them in ultra-brief spurts throughout the day.
7. **Sentence practice:** Write spelling words in simple sentences. Have your child practice reading and saying the sentences fluently. The words should become sight vocabulary with practice.
8. Use pennies, beans, cereal, etc. Have your child move the items to represent the phonograms in each word before writing the word. See example below for practicing “she.”



Your child moves the pennies as she says the sounds, /sh/ /e/, “she”

9. **Installing your own words** - Remember: your eyes are like a TV. Turn on TV and see picture, turn off, the picture is still there but you can't see it!
 - 1) Say the word (*auditory*)
 - 2) Tell your child to trace the word with her eyes. (*kinesthetic*)
 - 3) Tell your child to look at the word till her eyes are tired (perhaps pretend her eye is a camera. Snap a picture of the word and hang it in memory)
 - 5) Remove word and work with the image of the word in your child's head
 - do you see the tall letter, short letter, beginning letter, etc
 - Make letters bigger
 - Make letters in bright colors.
 - 6) Spell the word
 - 7) Show the word (always let them self correct)

Good questions to remind your child to be asking herself:

- Does it feel right?
- Where will you look when you want to find that word again? (visual memory)

If sections of word are proving difficult:

- 1) Show word again (even bold the letter they keep missing on the card)
- 2) Trace again with eyes.
- 3) Work with word, highlighting trouble spots.
- 4) Spell.
- 5) Show word.