

# Helping your child to learn spellings



Children need to be able to spell well and accurately. Learning to spell well is incredibly tricky and it takes lots of repetition and practise. It is hard work!

Children will not willingly want to spend their time learning to spell.

In our schools we spend a great deal of time teaching the children how to spell and give them opportunities to practise in class.

Practising at home is essential too- so every child will be given words to learn to spell as part of their regular home learning activities.

Some of these activities will help to make it a little more fun:

## **Spot the Word**

*Challenge your child to find the words they are learning in other places around them.*

- *In a reading book*
- *On a road sign*
- *In a magazine or comic or leaflet or poster*
- *On television*
- *On a sign or notice*

## **Make the Word**

*Encourage your child to make the word out of different materials*

- *Magnetic letters*
- *Letters torn from newspapers*
- *Pipe cleaners*
- *Plasticine*
- *Biscuit dough (then bake them and eat them!)*
- *String*

## **Alphabetical Order**

*Your child can rearrange their spellings into alphabetical order- use a dictionary or alphabet frieze to help*

## **Mnemonics**

*Mnemonics are silly sentences your child can use to remember the order of the letters in a word. Examples include:*

- *because: big elephants can always upset small elephants*
- *necessary: one collar and two socks (one c and 2 s)*

## **Find words within words**

*See how many smaller words your child could find within a longer one and make up a silly sentence to remind them*

- *Secretary- secret-ary: a secretary keeps secrets*

## **Word Snap**

*Write the spellings on small pieces of card; shuffle the pile; deal then between you. Keeping them face down, reveal one word at a time and place on the table. When two are turned over of the same word- who can shout 'snap!' first? The winner will be the one with the most pairs of matching words.*

If you need any more ideas- please speak to the classteacher, who will be happy to help.