

# Spelling at Home

At Estfeld, pupils are encouraged to work on their spellings at home. Lists of spellings to be practised each week are part of weekly home learning from Class One onwards. Accurate spelling is vital if we are to make our writing easy to understand and practising spellings really can be fun!



The method of learning spellings we recommend is:

## Look, say, cover, write, check

This is the method we use at school and your child can use their Spelling Book at home to practise spellings in this way.

Some children find it helpful to trace over the letters before covering them up and writing the word.

Simply copying the words out is not an effective way of learning spellings.

**BUT**... 'Look, say, cover, write, check' is not the only way of working on spellings and the ideas below can help you keep your child motivated and engaged.

- Speedy spellings - choose a word that is proving difficult to learn and challenge your child to write it as many times as they can in one minute.
- Pyramid spellings - from five spellings write the easiest one once, second easiest twice until the hardest one is written five times at the bottom of the pyramid:
- Write tricky words in chalk on the patio or pathway.
- Cut letters from newspapers or magazines and make a collage of the tricky word.
- Use 'look cover write check' on the computer (the website [www.ictgames.com](http://www.ictgames.com) has a version).
- Write the words in bright colours - perhaps use different colours for vowels/consonants.
- Use a silly sentence to help remember the spelling of tricky words (big elephants can add up sums easily - because, Sally Ann is dancing - said, I go home tonight - 'igh' words)
- Sit down with your child, two pencils and a piece of paper. Tell them the spelling word you'll be practising 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 written.
- Use magnet letters or scrabble tiles to make the words.
- Bounce a ball, one bounce for each phoneme or letter.
- Make words out of a cereal like Cheerios, then have a tasty snack!
- Trace the words in the air.
- Make a rap or cheerleaders chant to spell out the words.
- Screen time can also be used for practising spelling. There are many, many games available. Why not try the ones on [www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/words-and-spelling?](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/words-and-spelling?)

Whatever you do (however whacky) doesn't matter if it works for your child! The important thing is to make spelling matter, but without ruining the weekend!