



## Spelling

Encouraging your child to read will help to improve spelling skills. Good readers are often good spellers.

You could also try these strategies:

- Encourage your child to write every day – this could be something like a shopping list, an e-mail to friends and relatives, a letter to grandma, reminder notes for family members, or stories. Make sure there are pens/pencils and paper in the house.
- Play word games, for example, say a word and have your child think up a word that begins with the last letter of your word. (For example, you say “cat” your child says, “cup”, you say, “put”, etc.)
- Label household objects using note cards and tape or blue-tac; e.g. the word “fridge” stuck on the fridge, a card with the word “door” written on it for the bedroom door, etc.
- Play hangman with your child.
- Make crosswords and word searches for your child to solve. You can download crosswords and word searches from the internet.
- Spell words using Scrabble tiles or flash cards.
- Play some of the spelling games at [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com).
- Sound words out: break the word down into sounds, for example, **d – o – g** and **b – e – ll**. With longer words this is difficult to do so try some of the strategies listed below.
- Divide the words into chunks and say each chunk whilst writing the word. For example, **remember** could be broken up into **re – mem – ber**.
- To learn spellings, use the **Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check** method:
  - Read the word and say it out loud. Cover the word, write it then check to see if it is correct.
  - If it is not correct, highlight or underline the incorrect part and repeat the process.
- Find words within words. For example: “There is a **rat** in **separate**”.
- Encourage your child to use a dictionary; you may need to help them with this at first.