

Spelling

My philosophy is that it is most important for students to be able to spell the words they will need most often. The words we use occasionally we can sound out and try our best. If they know their frequently used words, their writing is both easier for them to complete and easier for an audience to read.

I also believe that, like reading, every child needs to be taught at their own level. One list for everyone is not the best approach.

At school, I always asked them to spell a list of frequently used words and then used that to help me choose each child's spelling words for the week.

I'm asking parents to call out the words until you find 2-3 that your child doesn't know. Then use those 2-3 words to practice this week. You can help them practice however you like, but I have attached 6 fun ways!

came

have

help

next

now

one

some

then

was

what

back

with

again

because

could

does

every

laugh

many

new

night

very

walk

why

If they know how to spell all of these words, challenge them with some words on this grade 2 list:

https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/rockwelles/classroom/grade2/secondgr_high_freq.pdf

Here are some creative and interactive ways to practice spelling words.

1. Make a Spelling Word Origami Fortune Teller

These are also known as Cootie Catchers. It's easy enough to create spelling word Cootie Catchers, and having your child spell the word out loud is very helpful for auditory learners.

Here is a link to step by step directions for making one (fun craft project as well). Just remember to write spelling words on your Catcher instead of numbers, colors:

<https://www.squiglyplayhouse.com/ArtsAndCrafts/Crafts/CootieCatchers.html>

2. Make and Use a "Word Catcher"

These modified fly-swatters can be a lot of fun to use. Give your child a copy of her spelling words, and you might be surprised to see how enthusiastic she is to start swatting the words in all the books, magazines, posters, and papers in the house.

3. Magnetic Letters, Alphabet Blocks, or Scrabble Pieces

Just as saying the words out loud can help an auditory learner, literally building the words can be helpful for more visual learners. Just keep in mind you might need more than one set of magnetic letters to spell all the words.

4. Create Your Own Word Search Puzzle

Luckily there are free online tools like Discovery Education's puzzlemaker program to help you make puzzles. All you have to do is type in the word list.

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>

5. Trace the Words in Rainbow Colors

This is a variation on the old "write your words ten times" homework. Your child can trace each word over and over to remember the order of the letters for each word. In the end, though, it's a lot prettier than a simple word list. Remember that they should spell the **whole word** with a color before choosing a new color. Tracing one letter repeatedly does not help them learn how to spell the whole word.

6. Let Your Child Text the Words to You

This way to practice spelling words depends, of course, on whether your child has a cell phone and what the plan includes. With unlimited texting, it's easy enough for you to receive the text, correct the spelling if necessary, and send back an emoji.