

Simple spelling games to play at home

Spelling Memory

Write two sets of spelling words on small cards and play a game of memory. When a card is turned over, read the word, spell it, and read it again.

Spelling Swat

Using the same set of flashcards from the activity above. Lay out one set on the table or floor so the words can be seen. Use the other set as a draw pile. Draw a card. Read the word, spell it, then find the matching word on the table. Slap the matching word on the table. Read the word, spell it, then read it again.

Wordo

This is an old game that is played just like Bingo, but with full words instead of letters and numbers. Again, if the word is on the Wordo card, read it, spell it, and read it again.

Rainbow Writing

Spell each word multiple times using a different color of the rainbow to write each time.

Around the Room Spelling Hunt

Using the two sets of flashcards from the first activity, place one set of spelling flashcards around the room and keep the other set for a draw pile. Draw a spelling flashcard, read it, and spell it. Read it again, then search for the matching word in the room.

Stamp It Out

Rather than writing out spelling words multiple times, use alphabet instead. (Or letter manipulatives work well, too.) The key here is to practice one word several times in a row.

Spell by Syllables

For longer words, practice spelling by spelling by syllables. For example, the word elephant would be broken down into el-e-phant, spelling just one syllable at a time.

Spelling Word Sorts

This is an excellent activity for spelling lists where all the words focus on a single spelling sound, but different spellings. Sort the words according to how that focus sound is spelled. For example, if the sound is long a spelled -eigh and -ai, then the words sleigh and weight would be put into a different group from snail and aim.

Word Scramble

This is an oldie, but still an effective way to practice spelling. Use letter manipulatives to spell a word from the spelling list, copying it if need be. Then, scramble the letters up and try to re-spell the word without looking at the spelling list for help.

Sensory Words

Use a sensory material to write out spelling words. Shaving cream, salt, play dough, and cookie sprinkles are all super fun.

Additional Tips for Spelling Practice at Home

Of course, spelling practice should always be supervised. This will ensure that your child is getting the most out of an activity as well as practicing the word correctly! Set aside some time every evening to do a quick spelling practice. Even if it's just ten minutes.

You could also break the list into chunks and practice only a few at a time. And always keep some easier words to mix with the difficult words. You don't want your child to feel defeated and lose confidence by making the list too difficult during spelling practice.