

Spelling activities and games

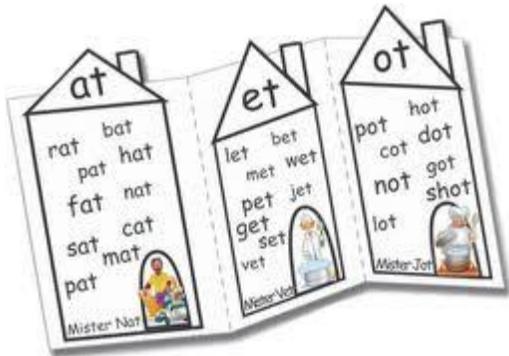
Investigate



Investigate a given rule or pattern; find words that fit that rule and any exceptions to that rule, e.g. *Use i before e, except after c, or when sounded as "a" as in "neighbour" and "weigh."*

Or give children a collection of words that they must find the rule for, e.g: *believe, chief, piece, and thief; deceive, receive, weigh, and freight*

Word families

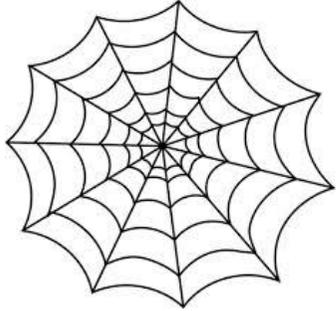


Eg: og, eep, ish, at, ag



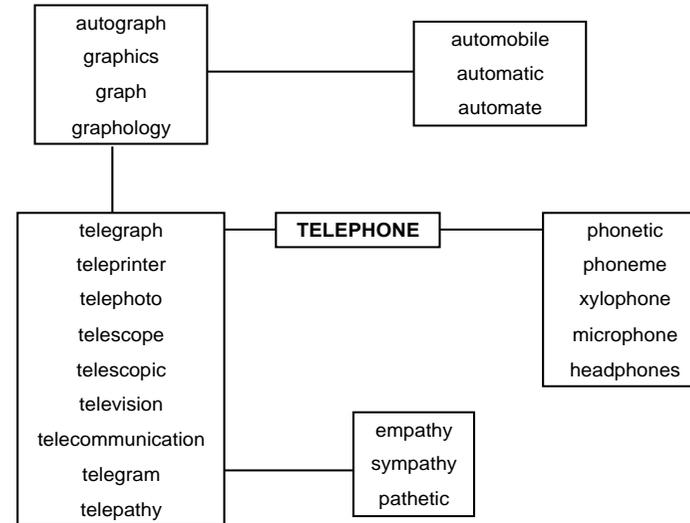
- Make word family **spinners** to generate words.
- Play word family **slam**, using post-it notes list all the words belonging to that family (colour code them), children then splat/slam with a ball or with their hands on the words and read/sound out.
- Play '**Islands**', using soft mats in the hall, give each mat/island a word family, in groups on large paper children generate words belonging to that family, then rotate. Teacher to call/spell/dictate a sentence containing different words belonging to different families, children must travel to the correct island.
- Play with word family **cubes**, roll the die, generate words, who can find the most?
- **Spelling Eggs** - a good use of kinder eggs to twist to make word families

Word webs



A good way to build vocabulary.

Word web for 'telephone'



Phonics pinny



Create a pinny of high frequency words or tricky words or the most commonly misspelt words in your class. Put some words on flash cards and attach them to your pinny. Wear your pinny around the classroom as an interactive resource that can be used at will!

Code breaker or cryptogram

| AUGUSTUS'S CODE | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| A = B | J = K | S = T |
| B = C | K = L | T = U |
| C = D | L = M | U = V |
| D = E | M = N | V = W |
| E = F | N = O | W = X |
| F = G | O = P | X = Y |
| G = H | P = Q | Y = Z |
| H = I | Q = R | Z = A |
| I = J | R = S | |

The letters of a text or spelling are coded in strange symbols. Break the **code** to reveal the message.



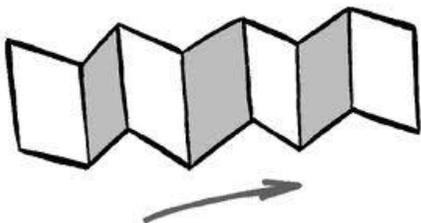
Rainbow letters/colour chunking



Children 'colour chunk' their spellings in a way that is memorable to them, this could be done phonetically, using syllables, or colour coding the suffixes or prefixes. Some children like to go over their spellings in many colours.

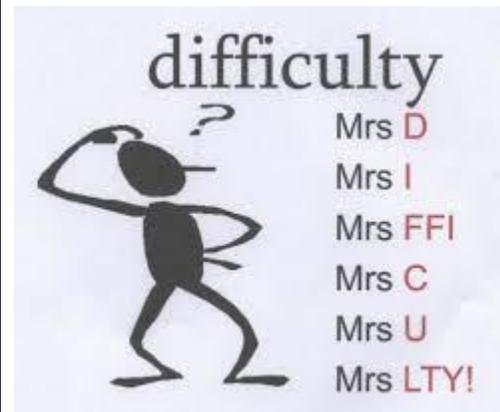


Zig-zag books



Make a zig-zag book containing the spellings that you are learning. You could use the zig-zag book to record spellings belonging to a particular rule, pattern or word family that you are investigating. Try to write a sentence containing the spelling on each page, could you include pictures?

Mnemonics



A good way to remember commonly misspelt words. Children enjoy coming up with their own mnemonics.

Never believe a **lie**.

There's a **rat** in separate

Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants

Necessary: one **C**ollar, two **S**leeves

Hot Potato!



Form a circle and play a "hot potato" (a bean bag will suffice).

The leader says a word which starts with a consonant blend, i.e. "small", then throws the bean bag to another child, who has to say a word that starts with the same blend as "small". That child then throws to another child and can say "change it". The child who gets the bean bag has to come up with a new blend, e.g. **gl**, **mp**, **ng** and continues as before.

Word search



A good consolidation activity using all the spellings the children have learnt. Alternatively challenge children to create their own wordsearches, hiding the spellings that they've learnt. Here is a useful website where you can create your own word searches:

<http://www.teachers-direct.co.uk/resources/wordsearches/>

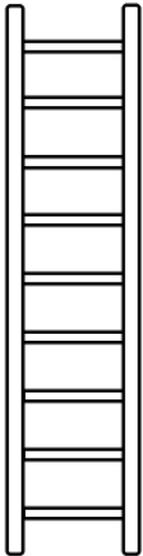
Hidden words



This is a good game to use as a quick starter activity or something to get children thinking. Give the class a word e.g: **spaghetti** and challenge them to find as many words as they can inside that word (in a given time limit), you can only use each letter once. Here is a helpful resource to use:

<http://www.wordles.com/getWordsInWords.aspx>

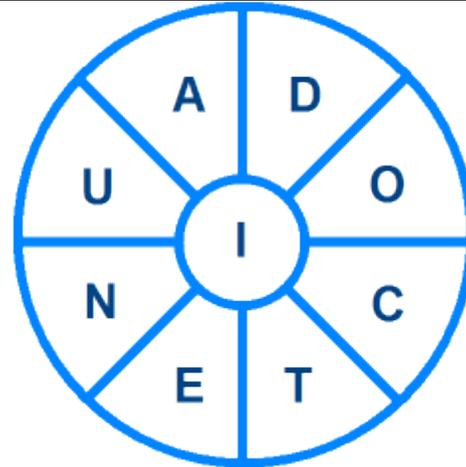
Word ladders



A word ladder is a sequence of words formed by changing just one letter each time eg CAT - COT - DOT - DOG. Can you find the missing words? Use the clues if you get stuck. Newspapers are a good source or see this website:

http://www.puzzlechoice.com/pc/Wordladder_Mex.html

Word wheels



How many words can you make from the letters in the wheel? Each word must contain the hub letter I. Can you find a 9-letter word and at least 20 other words of five letters or more avoiding proper nouns?

Unscramble Anagrams



Give children the letters to a word in a muddled order, they need to unscramble the letters to find the correct spelling. This could be done to a countdown timer.

Even better if you could link the spellings to a topic that you are learning, e.g. RIVERS:

- TRUE SHAPE (9)
- POLO IMP (7)
- IS GRIT (6)
- LINE (4)
- GET ZANY (7)
- TRIBE (5)
- HAS MET (6)
- A UBEND (6)
- SUMO IRIS (8)
- DRAGON IRE (3,6)

Word Sudoku

Autumn Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters A C O R N S.
Don't guess - use logic



| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | | | | | O |
| | | O | N | | |
| | S | A | O | R | |
| | O | R | S | N | |
| | | N | C | | |
| R | | | | | N |

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Much the same as traditional Sudoku's you just have to place letters in the grid instead of numbers. Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the given letters, e.g. A C O R N S

Find a few examples at:

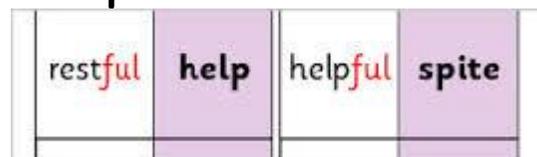
<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/word-sudoku>

Hangman



An old, easy favorite: Hangman is a paper and pencil guessing game for two or more players. One player thinks of a word, phrase or sentence containing the spelling being taught, and the other tries to guess it by suggesting letters.

Loop cards



Each child holds a card around the class that no one else can see, have one starting card/player and one end/finish card. This is a good way to learn suffixes or prefixes, or you could use a set of loop cards, which help children to review regular and irregular plurals, e.g. Who has the plural of mouse? I have mice.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Bingo!</p>  | <p>Who has the plural of fox? Etc..</p> <p>Another old favourite! Give children a blank grid to fill with the correct spellings that they've been learning or select a few words from a given rule or pattern. Teacher to spell out words that could be on their grids, children to cross the words off as they are called (if they are on their grid). The first to cross all their words off and to have spelt all of them correctly calls "BINGO!" and is the winner.</p> |
| <p>Spelling Story</p>  <p>© Mystic Arts, LLC</p> | <p>Ask children to write a story containing the spelling words or sound that they are learning. This could be a nonsense/silly story that is totally made up, but by putting the spellings being learnt into a context some children will find them easier to learn. You may wish to ask the children to underline/highlight or colour chunk the spelling words within the story and draw a picture to go with it.</p> |
| <p>Phonics Clouds</p>  <p>Shaping Reading Brains™</p> | <p>Write a digraph on the board and draw a cloud around it e.g. ai, ee, sh, ch, pl etc. The children then take it in turns to write a word on the board that has that sound. This could be done on an individual basis with a set time limit. You could also challenge the teacher to see who can find the most words.</p> |

Word Chop



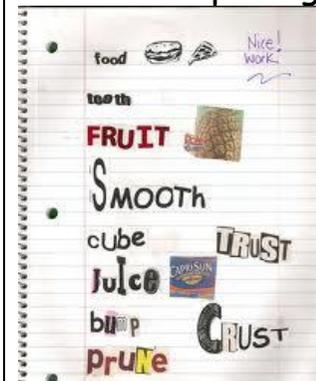
A set of common words have been split into two pieces. Can you put them together to create the correct words? Even better done with a time limit!

| | | | |
|------|-------|-----|-------|
| arn | lemo | do | st |
| one | wr | ars | lings |
| oy | ked | bec | le |
| nade | er | de | tal |
| duck | tbook | al | pocke |
| ause | bo | ite | t |
| te | ood | es | at |
| sum | mer | | |

Newspaper letters



Using cut out letters from newspapers or magazines to create spellings being learnt



Playing Pairs



Normally played with playing cards, this version using spelling flash cards. Lay the cards out upside down and flat on the table. Turning one card over at a time, can children find/match the pairs of words containing the same word family? Pattern? Rule? Can you match the words that make a compound word?

Snap



Similar to playing pairs, but each child has their own set of flash cards with the spellings being learnt. Children call snap when they have a pair of cards from the same word family or they share the same rule that they've been investigating in class.

Puzzle Pieces



All you need is a few different colored markers and a small jigsaw puzzle you don't mind writing on the back of. Children use the letters to piece together the word/spelling they are learning. This would also work well when learning compound words.

Kim's game



Kim's game promotes the development of memory and observation skills and can be used for learning new groups of objects, such as shapes or fruits. But this game can also be used to support spelling, as it often is with phonics. Gather a collection of objects or images of the spelling words being taught (best to base this around a rule, pattern or word family - see if the children can spot this from the objects), reveal them for a limited period of time on a tray, see how many the children can spell and remember first try. Repeat, allowing longer, this time have a flash card of the spelling next to the item.

Spelling sticks



These could be used in a multitude of ways. Children could write the spellings of words being learnt along the stick, place them in a pot and one child pulls one out at the end of the day to use in a game of hang man. If you buy multi-coloured sticks they could be colour-coded by sound/rule/pattern/word families. Letters could be written on the sticks in order for children to create words.

Fishing for words



Fishing for Words- print the spelling words on small flash cards (laminated), fold in half, and fasten each with a paper clip. Place the cards in a large fish bowl. Using a toy fishing pole or a long stick, place a magnet on the string. The students go fishing for a spelling word to practice.

Scrabble spelling



Scrabble Spelling- Place the wooden letter squares from an old Scrabble game on the Scrabble rail. Students can use the squares to spell the weekly words or to write a sentence of words. Incorporate maths practice by having them add the number values printed on the squares to find the week's "most valuable word."

Musical words



Musical Words- A word skills game that is played like musical chairs. The teacher places the spelling words on small pieces of paper in a large box or bag. The children sit in a circle, and start passing the box around while music plays. Whoever has the container when the music stops must pick out the paper and read the word, they get to choose someone in the circle to write the spelling down on the board.

Pyramid power



Pyramid Power- Children write their words in order of difficulty (for them). They write their easiest word once at the top of the paper near the middle, the next easiest twice, and so on. Students will have a pyramid shape when they are finished.

Rainbow chains



Rainbow chains- Rainbow chains are a great way of keeping track of the words a pupil/class know(s). The child writes the words he/she has successfully spelled in their work and add it to a paper chain across the classroom. The children love to see their chains grow!