

Ideas for helping your child learn to spell those tricky high frequency words

Many of the so-called 'high frequency' words are those that we use all the time but that often don't follow any particular spelling rules. As a result, we often tell the children that we just have to learn what they look like. Children who read a lot tend to find this a little easier, as they are constantly seeing these words (written correctly) in print. We also often suggest to the children it can be useful to write a word down twice on a piece of scrap paper: then look at both and decide which one looks correct.

The suggestions below don't give technical ideas on teaching how to spell these all-important words, but more some ideas on activities you can do with your child to help them remember them when they are writing.

- ✓ The adult to write the word in three different ways - one correct, two incorrect - the child to identify which is the correctly written word.
- ✓ Spelling doesn't have to involve writing - ask your child to spell the word out loud.
- ✓ If a word is particularly tricky, e.g. 'said', work with your child to think of a mnemonic (a system or a trick to help you remember something) so that they remember how to spell it.
 - said - silly ants in dustbins
 - because - big elephants cause accidents under small elephants
- ✓ Spell the word using magnetic letters on the fridge, or using Scrabble tiles. Play skipping, jumping or hopping games, sounding out each letter of the word on each skip/jump/hop.
- ✓ Play 'Hangman', but only using tricky words.
- ✓ Whiteboards are so much more appealing to write on than paper! Provide your child with one at home and give them words to practise.