

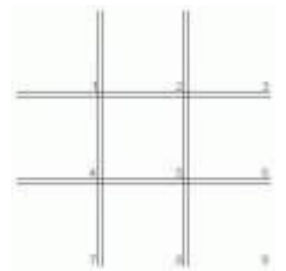
# Spelling Activities

For the words your child cannot spell, why not turn these words into flash cards and place them around the house for your child to spell regularly?

We encourage parents to use the: “Look, say, cover, write, check,” method to help with spellings. Other games you could play at home include:

## TIC-TAC-TOE

This game is similar to noughts and crosses but with key words. With two players, each person picks a word that is the most complex in the list and then cover it up. In each space, the child writes the word. They must make a row of three to win. This encourages children to focus upon words which they find problematic and practise spelling them with a meaningful challenge.



## SAND, PAPER and PAINT

Using sand, children write with their finger their spellings. This can also be used alongside look, say, cover, write and check. Children can use paint on paper in the same way and write their words with a paint brush or finger instead. This activity reinforces letter shape and common patterns of letters.



## I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE...

This activity can be used with any child and focuses upon either the first letter of the word (as in the traditional game) or, more complicated, picking a specific pattern for the children to think of e.g. “I spy with my little eye, word containing –ea together” Peach? Etc. This game supports children in listening to spelling patterns and thinking of words which would fit the pattern.



## SPELLAMEDOODLE

Using one word, the children draw a picture using the word over and over again to make the lines of their picture. E.g. if the focus word was house, the children might draw a house where the walls and windows are constructed with the word written over and over again. This activity allows children to repeatedly write the word and is basically the same as Look, say, cover, write and check within a more interesting context. Your child must check that the word is spelt accurately each time.

## HOLDING WORDS TO THE LEFT

In learning new words, research has shown that in order to remember spellings, words should be held above and to the left of the child. This allows the brain to process and can therefore recall the word. As your child becomes better at spelling more complex words, they will recall the word – their eyes will avert to the same place as the word was introduced – observing the invisible word.

## NUMBER PLATES

A game similar to COUNTDOWN. On a car journey, observe the number plates of cars: DG72 TRC

The aim of the game is to take the group of three letters and keeping them in that order, make the longest word possible.

From this number plate you could make the following words:

Track

Trace

Terrific

Tracing

This game encourages children to think about words, and may even be able to extend an existing word by adding a prefix or suffix.

