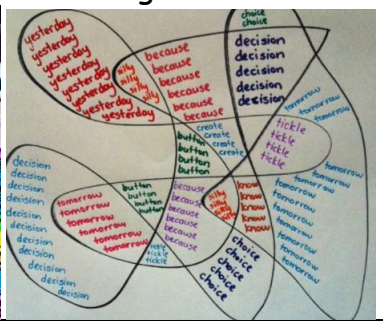
Practising Spellings At Home

Practising spellings should always be fun with a 'little and often' approach.
A variety of games and activities should help to keep children interested and motivated.
The games and activities below have been designed for home learning, but they may also be used in the classroom.

1) Word Search: Create your own word searches using your spelling words. There is a blank wordsearch and a blank crossword template on the website you can use and print off. Or use this link to get your computer to do it for you. http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp	**2) Spell – a – doodle:** Create a picture and use your spelling words to fill in the detail. Each word must be written three times. e.g. a picture of clouds would have the lines formed with spelling words. You can add to the challenge by giving specific picture topics. 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. 
3) Air spelling: Choose a spelling word. With your index finger write the word in the air slowly, say each letter. Your parent needs to remind you that you need to be able to 'see' the letters you have written in the air. When you have finished writing the word underline it and say the word again. Now get you parents to ask you questions. For example they could ask 'What is the first letter?' 'What is the last letter?' 'How many letters are there?' etc.	**4) Media Search**: Using a newspaper or magazine you have 15 minutes to look for your spelling words. Circle them in different coloured crayon. Which of your spellings words was used the most times?
5) Shaving Cream Practice:	**6) Salt Box Spelling:**

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An easy way to clean those dirty tables is to finger paint on them with shaving cream. Squirt some on the table (with your parents' permission and supervision!) and then practice spelling your words by writing them with your finger in the shaving cream. 	Ask your parents pour salt into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) and then practice writing you spellings in it with your finger.
7) Scrabble Spelling: Find the letters you need to spell you words and then mix them up in the bag. Get your parents to time you unscrambling your letters. For extra maths practice you could find out the value of each of your words!	**8) Pyramid Power:** A) Sort your words into a list from easiest to hardest. Write the easiest word at the top of the page near the middle. Write the next easiest word twice underneath. Write the third word three times underneath again until you have built your pyramid. B) Write each letter of the word into a pyramid building up each line e.g. b ba bab baby
9) Ransom Note: Cut the letters needed to for your words from a newspaper or magazine and glue them down to spell the words. 	**10) Spell It With Beans:** Use Lima beans (or any dried beans or lentils) to spell out your words. If you glue them onto separate pieces of card then you made a great set of flash cards to practice with for the rest of the week.

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11) Pipe Cleaners Or Tooth Picks: These are just a couple of suggestions of things you could use to create your spelling words. 	**12) Tasty Words:** Just like above but this time try and find tasty things to spell your words with, like raisins. Then when you spell them right you get to eat them!
13) Design A Word: Pick one word and write it in bubble letters. Colour in each letter in a different pattern. Write it in rainbow colours, e.g. p a i n t 	**14) Sign Your Word:** Practice spelling your words by signing each letter.
15) Water wash: Use a paintbrush and water to write your words outside on concrete or pavements. You could also use chalk to do the same thing! 	**16) ABC Order:** Write your words out in alphabetical order. Then write them in reverse alphabetical order.
17) Story Time: A) Write a short story using all your words. Don't forget to check your punctuation! B) Can you find your spellings in a story book?	**18) Simple Sentence:** Write a sentence for each of your words. Remember each sentence must start with a capital letter and end with a full stop. Could you write a sentence that includes more than one, or even all of your words.

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19) Colourful Words: Use two different coloured pens to write your words. One to write the consonants and one to write the vowels. Do this a couple of times then write the whole word in one colour	**20) Memory Game:** Make pairs of word cards. Turn them all over and mix them up. flip over two cards, if they match you get to keep them, if not you have to turn them over again. Try and match all the pairs.
21) Finger Tracing: Use your finger to spell out each of your words on your mum or dad's back. Then it's their turn to write the words on your back for you to feel and spell.	**22) Scrambled Words:** Write your words then write them again with all the letters mixed up.
23) X-Words: Find two of your spelling words with the same letter in and write them so they criss cross.	**24) Ambidextrous:** Swap your pen into the hand that you don't normally write with. Now try writing out your spellings with that hand.
25) Telephone Words: Translate your words into numbers from the telephone keypad. 	**26) Secret Agent:** Write out the alphabet, then give each letter a different number from 1 to 26. (a = 1, b = 2, c = 3 etc.) Now you can spell out your words in secret code.
27) Missing Letters: Ask your mum or dad to write out one of your words loads of times on piece of paper, but each time they have to miss out a letter or two. Then you have to fill in the missing letters. After you have checked them all try it again with another word.	**28) Listen Carefully:** Ask your parents to spell out one of your words then you have to say what the word is they have spelt out.

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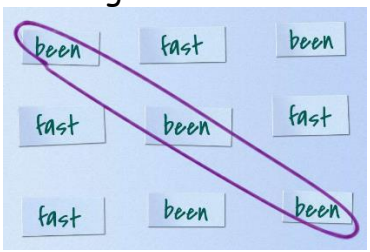
29) Acrostic: Use words that start with each letter in your spelling word. You're more likely to remember it if it makes sense.	**30) What's the time Mr Wolf?** New rules to the loved game- The wolf has to call out a spelling e.g. because. Each step the child takes they have to sound out the word b e c a u s e.
31) 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 in a meaningful challenge. 	**32) 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.
33) 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, a word containing –ea- together" Peach? Etc. This game supports children in listening to spelling patterns and thinking of words which would fit the pattern.	**34) COUNTDOWN/CONUNDRUMS** The board game can be purchased but this is easy enough to set up yourself at home. From 2 packs of randomly selected vowels and consonants, pick 8 letters in total and beat the clock (you choose the time limit… but no more than 3 mins!) to create the longest correctly spelled word. Jumble up a known word to see if your child can solve the conundrum.

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35) NUMBER PLATES	EXTRA SPELLING FUN
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.	Hangman Junior Scrabble Boggle Word Snap

Extra Useful Websites

Online games, videos and apps for children

http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/
Great games – can link to Letters and Sounds, select letters used in each game (some games only available through subscription but many are free!

www.starfall.com
Phonic games and phonic stories

http://www.mrthorne.com/
Great site with loads of video clips – lots of apps for iPad and iPhones too!

http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html
Great range of phonics games, mainly Reception and Key Stage 1

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/literacy/
Great range of phonics games, mainly Reception and Key Stage 1

www.spellingcity.com
Requires registration but many features are available without purchase.

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A whole site full of practice games for all levels.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/spellits/index.shtml
A series of spelling activities taking place within the context of mystery solving, adventures and challenges.

Useful Apps:

- Sir Linkalot
- Spelling Shed
- Mr Thorne's apps
  Teach your monster to read
- Hairy letters
- Starfall