

How Can I Help My Child At Home?

Spelling

- try to make spelling activities enjoyable
- say rhymes and tongue twisters together
- play 'detective' games with words; be detectives and find:
 - words that rhyme, e.g. can, fan, man, tan
 - words that begin with the same sound, eg sun, sausage, sea and clap, climb, cliff
 - words that end with the same sound, e.g. hat, eat, bit and happy, grumpy, chilly
 - little words in big words, e.g. carpet: car, pet, are, care, tar
 - words that sound the same but are spelt differently, e.g. ate - eight, to - two - too, their - there
- play word games such as *Junior Scrabble*, *Boggle*, *Word Snap*, *Wonderwords*, *Junior Crosswords*, *I Spy*, *Scattegories*, *Junior Pictionary*
- challenge your child to write words with three letters, five letters and so on, e.g. body parts 3-arm lip 4-lung hand 5-heart liver etc
- encourage your child to 'have a go' at spelling words and give them appropriate clues if they have trouble
- encourage your child to 'sound out' words, e.g. h-i-t, s-a-n-d
- ask your child to write words that are not easily 'sounded out', e.g. watch, after, through
- encourage your child to develop memory tricks for spelling words, e.g. 'a *piece* of *pie*', 'hear with your *ear*'
- show interest in your child's personal spelling lists
- show your child how to use dictionaries, encyclopedias and thesauruses

LEARNING WORDS

Use the following steps to help you to learn words:

- 1) **LOOK** at the word, so that you have a picture of it in your head.
Be able to visualise it if you close your eyes.
- 2) **SAY** the word.
- 3) **NAME** the letters of the word.
- 4) **COVER** the word.
- 5) **WRITE** the word.
- 6) **CHECK** the word, letter by letter to see if it is correct.

Breeze this many times with each word until you know it so well that you can quickly write it automatically.

