



MULTI-SENSORY SPELLING

Ideas to try at home!

November 2022

What is multi-sensory spelling?

Multi-Sensory spelling is all about activities that engage children in different ways, to help them learn and remember spellings. The aim is for the teaching of spelling to be accessible to all children, and many multi-sensory spelling tools and strategies are also termed as being 'dyslexia-friendly'.

Some of these strategies are already contained within our spelling bingo sheets (in homework books), but over the next few pages there are a wider (and louder... and messier...) variety of activities you can try with your children at home, above and beyond what they do for homework each week.

These are hopefully all ideas that are fairly easily resourced and make the most of what children already have at home - things like lego and chalk! However, if ever you're out and about, you can also use sticks, stones, leaves and pinecones as part of some woodland spelling activities, too!

The activities in this document are sourced from a number of places - however the more detailed ideas at the back are courtesy of the [Dyslexia Outreach Service](#).

If you make your way through all of these strategies, and want to find more, a few links are below:

<https://www.inspirethemom.com/50-sensory-spelling-activities-for-kids/>

<https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/multi-sensory-stations-for-spelling-practice-that-sticks/>

<https://senresourcesblog.com/category/spelling/>

<p><u>Play Dough Words</u></p> <p>Use play dough to form letters to spell out a word.</p>	<p><u>Pipe Cleaner Words</u></p> <p>Use pipe cleaners - bend and form to make letters and words.</p>	<p><u>Wool Words</u></p> <p>Supply some wool and scissors and let the child snip and create letters to spell out the words.</p>	<p><u>Letter Beads</u></p> <p>Use alphabet letter beads and pipe cleaners or string to thread and make words</p>
<p><u>Stamp It!</u></p> <p>Use alphabet stamps and ink pads to stamp out words or let children use fingerprints to write words if you don't have letter stamps.</p>	<p><u>Paint It!</u></p> <p>Use a paintbrush and paint to spell words.</p>	<p><u>Finger Paint</u></p> <p>Let them get messy and have some sensory fun and finger paint to spell their words</p>	<p><u>Reverse Chalk Writing (aka Water Writing)</u></p> <p>Use chalk to cover the chalkboard and have your child use a paintbrush (or their finger) dipped in water to write their words over it.</p>
<p><u>Type It!</u></p> <p>Ask children to type their spelling words on the computer/ipad/laptop/phone.</p>	<p><u>Rainbow Words</u></p> <p>Spell words using different coloured markers or crayons for each letter.</p>	<p><u>Salt/Sand/Flour Tray</u></p> <p>Spell words using a finger in the sand/salt/flour.</p> <p>Put coloured paper under the salt, sand or flour to make the letters really show up.</p>	<p><u>Trace</u></p> <p>Let the child trace their word on your back or palm. Have them focus on properly forming each letter so you can feel it being drawn. You can also reverse this so you write the word on your child's hand - can they work out the word you've written?!</p>

<p><u>Pavement Chalk</u></p> <p>Go outside and spell your words using pavement chalk. Just taking the spelling practice outside makes it more fun.</p>	<p><u>Shaving Cream</u></p> <p>Make a thin layer of shaving cream on a tray and use a paintbrush or better yet a fingertip to spell out the words.</p>	<p><u>Trace in the Air</u></p> <p>Watch as children trace the letters in the air to spell each word.</p>	<p><u>Alphabet Blocks</u></p> <p>use ABC blocks / bricks to spell words.</p>
<p><u>Build a Word with Lego</u></p> <p>Whiteboard pens can be used to write on Lego - it cleans off easily! Get children to write letters onto Lego bricks (or stack two bricks for taller letters like l). Can they then build words using the correct lego blocks? This will help them to start visualizing the 'shape' of the word too!</p>	<p><u>Cotton Bud Writing</u></p> <p>Use Cotton Buds and paint to dot letters to spell the word or write the word using the cotton bud as a paint brush.</p>	<p><u>Alphabet Stickers</u></p> <p>build words using alphabet stickers</p>	<p><u>Small/Medium/Large Words</u></p> <p>Jazz up simple repetition by writing the word using the smallest letters they can possibly write, then doing normal-sized and finally jumbo-sized letters. You could even try writing with your eyes closed!</p>
<p><u>Glue & Glitter</u></p> <p>Write out spelling words in glue and sprinkle some glitter on top. Glitter makes everything fun, doesn't it?</p>	<p><u>Wikki Stix</u></p> <p>Wikki Stix are a fun bendable material and perfect to use in building letters to spell words.</p>	<p><u>Alphabet Rocks</u></p> <p>If you have a set of painted ABC rocks these can be a fun way to build and spell words. You could even make your own pebble letters.</p>	<p><u>Hidden Spelling Words</u></p> <p>On a white piece of paper let your child write out the spelling words using a white crayon or candle. Once all words have been written, use watercolour paints to make hidden words appear.</p>

OUTSIDE



Use a skipping rope to practice your spelling words. Write the words on a piece of paper or white board, etc. While looking at the word spell the word while skipping.

Use a basketball to practice. Write the word on something. You can bounce the ball while spelling the word, throw the ball back and forth to someone spelling the word or use a basketball goal.



Practice any concept by jumping on a trampoline. As you jump, spell out the word.



Use chalk and practice on a playground.



Sensory Motor Activities

Create a song or jingle to spell the spelling words. Mrs D, Mrs I, Mrs FFI, Mrs C, Mrs U, Mrs LTY.

Mrs D, Mrs I,
Mrs FFI, Mrs C,
Mrs U, Mrs LTY.
THAT SPELLS
DIFFICULTY
ROALD DAHL

Soft and Loud Activity: Looking at the list of spelling words, the child spells the word orally using soft and loud sounds. (ex: Vowels are soft sounds and consonants are loud sounds.)

Large Muscle Activity: Stomp and Thrust-Looking at the list of spelling words, the child will stomp for a vowel and thrust the arm forward for the consonants or kick a leg forward for a vowel or consonant. (Can also be used as Kung Fu punctuation)



Vowel Hop Activity: When spelling a word, the child makes a small hop in place while saying the letter.



Snap and Clap Activity: Say the spelling word. Have the child clap when they say a consonant letter and snap their fingers when they say a vowel.



Texture and Colour

Use pudding, corn meal, sand, salt, shaving cream, any kind of texture like sandpaper, carpet to write in/on.



Rainbow writing with crayons or paint: Write the spelling words with one colour. Next, while using a different colour, trace over the first colour while naming the letters. Repeat. Or use the Hairy Letters App



Magnetic Letters: Use plastic or magnetic letters to practice making words.



When writing the spelling words, write the vowels or vowel patterns in one colour and the consonants in another colour.

