

The pace with which learners are introduced to new words can leave little time for understanding the meaning. To increase the chances of these words becoming part of a child's lexicon, try these top tips.

1 Find Patterns

Either by using the sounds in the words or what they look like.

Grouping the words helps reduce the overall amount the brain needs to remember.

The term for this is **chunking**.

2 Mnemonics

Creating a **memorable** sentence, often **humorous** is in many ways easier for a child to remember than a string of letters. These are particularly helpful with words that don't have obvious sounds or visual patterns.

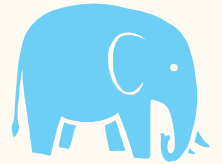
Word like, **SAID** or **BECAUSE, NECESSARY** or **DIARRHOEA**

Sad Ant Is Dead

Big Elephants Can Always Use Small Exits

Never Eat Crisps Eat Salad Sandwiches And Remain Young

Dash In A Rush Run Hard Or Else Accident



3 Sounding out and syllables

Phonological awareness is a persistent difficulty for learners with dyslexia but breaking down words can prove unpopular as learners grow older.

However, sounding out can still be helpful. When checking if a word is spelt correctly, if there aren't enough syllables then a child knows they have gone wrong somewhere.

4 Words in context

The problem with learning words from lists is they remain a collection of letters rather than words.

Adding meaning to those words by looking at their definitions or scanning books to find the words allows a child to see them as part of a sentence.

In summary, to help a child learn to spell repetition is key as well as time to explore that word: how it looks, what it means and how it's used in a sentence.

5 Little and Often

Limit spelling activities to five to ten minutes a day but do repeat key words regularly.

Repetition is so important to children who struggle with spelling as it takes much longer for their brains to store these words and recall them automatically

