



SEND Help at Home



The following activities need to be made into games rather than 'exercises'. The focus for working at home should be to make the learning fun and stress free. If your child becomes frustrated and displays a lack of engagement simply move on to a different exercise or pick up at a later point.

Develop Listening Skills

1. Listen for sounds (musical notes, scrunching paper or even shaking of keys)
2. Play games that involve directions (make this non-competitive)
3. Simon Says
4. Play I Spy (listen for sounds in words)
5. Guess who... I can fly, I am a busy worker and I help make some sandwiches taste sweet.
6. Listen to stories
7. Listen to the radio or news – CBBC Newsround

Develop Auditory Sequential Memory

1. Dancing and clapping to rhythms
2. Try repeating a short story in its correct original order
3. Practise following instructions e.g. kick the ball, pick up the ball, throw the ball then jump over the ball.
4. Memory games – what did we buy today from Sainsbury's?
5. Try repeating a set of numbers or even words

Develop Visual Skills

1. Practise copying images or still shots from a cartoon
2. Matching games – snap
3. Drawing games – can you spot the pattern?
4. Identifying objects and shapes e.g. the television is a rectangle
5. Spot the difference
6. Drawing games such as 'dot-to-dot'
7. Creating a pattern – one dot represents the number 1, two dots represents the number 2
8. Play bingo using symbols and patterns
9. Explore artistic mosaics
10. Find the odd one out e.g. m m m m n m m m m

Develop Visual Sequential Memory Skills

1. Try to re-create simply patterns from memory
2. Use a comic strip to sequence events – cut key sections out of the magazine and try to order them
3. Look, hide then try to remember which objects were on the table
4. Left / Right games
5. Word searches – ideally words which go horizontally

Practical Activities – Reading

Read with your child at bedtime and let him/her read parts to you. When he/she becomes tired or comes to a hard passage or word, you take over. Try to stop at an exciting point so that they really want to know what comes next. You could even make a prediction together!

Choose fun books to read – comics or magazines are colourful and have short sections of text. These may be more suitable if your child struggles to read for a long period of time.

Play syllable games and break long words into chunks. Charades is a good game to practise using syllables.

Practical Activities – Spelling

Use a vowel card – bring the same card into school for use during writing activities

Mnemonics and acronyms can be useful for learning small words that do not follow a regular phonetic pattern e.g. does: **d**oes **O**liver **e**at **s**weets? Build this one step further by ensuring that the mnemonic you use always starts with the word you are trying to learn. Finally, try creating a picture to help strengthen memory.

Rhyming can help when your child forgets how a word is spelt. Remember that even if a word is misspelled, as a result of using rhyming it will often be phonetically correct so it can be understood.

Spell checkers are often more useful than dictionaries.

Word processing on the computer is ideal especially if your child enjoys using a computer. Automatic spell checkers can be used.

Practical Activities – Writing

Use a whiteboard for practising writing, including spellings

If your child struggles with handwriting, start by using a large thick crayon or whiteboard pen, then gradually progress to a small pencil and paper. Five minutes spelling practise each night alongside perhaps a reward graphical record / chart will help your child to improve their handwriting and spellings.

Give your child a starting sentence and ask them to complete the sentence.

If your child wants to write a story, plan together using post-it notes – mind mapping will help prioritise points. In turn, each point can form a new section / paragraph.

Memory

1. Name objects
2. Train your child to say things aloud – it helps to recall
3. Use post-it notes to record important information when someone calls the house. Doodling is easier than writing.
4. Visualisation techniques can help to improve memory e.g. if you have to remember a list of groceries such as eggs, cream and lettuce. Try to imagine a fried egg on a bright green lettuce and a thick serving of cream on top. Draw the visualisation.

Organisation

1. Use a calendar and check it together every Sunday evening. Use a wall planner for showing the year's events by month.
2. Routine is important, always try to pack bags the night before school.
3. Two boxes – 'goodies' and 'baddies'. When your child room gets untidy, you could help by asking if items are 'goody' or 'baddy?' Goodies can be kept and tidied later and baddies thrown out.
4. When something has to be remembered during the school day, sticky tape the information or list on the inside of the school bag so that your child will see it every time they open their bag.
5. Colour code folders

If you have any queries or want to know any more games / activities that you can use at home with your child please do not hesitate to contact Mr Dey who will be more than willing to sit down and discuss ideas with you. He will also print off and discuss new material.