

Games and activities you can do at home to help your child to learn the high frequency words.

## 2. Games to help children spell the words



### Some useful steps in learning to spell words:

1. Select a number of cards (not too many at a time). Say the word out loud.
2. If the word can be split into its sounds, say the word in a 'robot voice'.
3. Look at the word trace over the letters with your finger.
4. Copy the word and say the letters or sounds as you write it. Copy it again.
5. Cover the word and try and write the word saying it as you write – peep if you need to!
6. Check the word you have written matches the word on the card and say it again as you check.
7. Keep writing the word until you can write it without having to peep.
8. For words that are tricky and that it is not as easy to learn take an imaginary picture of the word with your imaginary camera – imagine the word is big, coloured red, lit up by fireworks, has spiders crawling on it. Shut your eyes and try and picture the word. Try and write it down imagining the picture of the word you see in your head.

## **Snap**

Play the game in the same way that you would to help your child read the words but this time have a large piece of paper and a pen in the middle of the table. When the words match rather than saying the word to win the cards you have to grab the pen and write the word to win the cards.

## **Pairs**

Play the game in the same way that you would to help your child read the words but this time have a large piece of paper and a pen in the middle of the table. If you find a pair you can only keep the pair if you can write the word. Give time to look at the word and talk through ways to remember it and then write the word to keep the pair. If they/you get it wrong (and sometimes it is a good idea if you get it wrong – they love correcting you) give them another chance making sure you help as much as you can as they are trying to remember the word and as they write.

## **Silly sentence**

Play the game in the same way that you would to help your child read the words but this time say the sentence and then you can write the silly sentence with gaps for the word card words which the child can fill in.

## **Hunt the word**

Play the game in the same way that you would to help your child read the words but this time when they find a word they bring it to you, say the word and then write the word for you.

## **Musical words**

Ask the child to choose a favourite song. Give them a short list of words they are learning to spell. Spend some time looking at the words first and thinking of ways to remember how to spell them then put on the music. How many times can they write the list of words during the song? Can they improve on the number of times they have written the words the next day they do the same activity?