Spelling – one size might not fit all

People learn best in different ways. Take a look at the following strategies for learning words. Try the strategies from each box for a week – you can choose how many words to target but each week should have the same amount of words and approximately the same difficulty (so you might use key words from history, geography and RE). Then, test yourself at the end of each week and make a note of how many you get correct. You may find that the strategies of one box suit you better than the others. This will save you time in the future if you know what works for you.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Visual techniques* Look at the word, say it out loud, pronouncing all the sounds separately
* Close your eyes and ‘see’ the word, open your eyes and write the word, check for accuracy and write again
* Look up to the left and ‘see’ the word in a bright colour, write the word in that colour, check for accuracy and write again
 | Tactile techniques* Look at the word, trace it with your index finger saying the letters, write the word, check for accuracy and write again
* Draw a bubble around the words which follows the shape of the letters, notice what the shape reminds you of, write the word, check for accuracy and write again
* Punch out the letters in the air, say the letters with each punch, write the word, check for accuracy and write again
* Sing, dance or act out the letters of the word (in your mind is ok), write the word, check for accuracy and write again
* Write the word in the air, write the word on paper, check for accuracy and write again
 |
| Auditory techniques* Say the word, sound out each letter (or blend, e.g. ‘bl-end’), write the word as you say it for a second time, check for accuracy and write again
* Sing the letters to the tune of a song, advert jingle (e.g ‘Go compare!’) or carol – use a different one for each new word. Then, write the word whilst singing it, check for accuracy and write again
* Enunciate the word really slowly, several times write the word, check for accuracy and write again
 | Multisensory techniques* Use one strategy from each box for each word, e.g. if you are learning the word ‘Geography’ you could try the following:
1. Look to the left and imagine seeing ‘Geography’ in bright green
2. Sing the word to the tune of ‘Be bold, be strong!’, emphasising the 4 syllables – “Ge—og—raph—y….da de da da da da da da, Ge—og—raph—y….da de da da da da da da”
3. Draw a bubble round the word – what does it look like – the G and the H are taller than the other letters, maybe you could see them as mountains, the 2nd G, P and Y all go down, maybe they could be rivers?
* Then, write the word whilst singing it then by imagining it, then by ‘seeing’ your picture check for accuracy each time and write again
 |