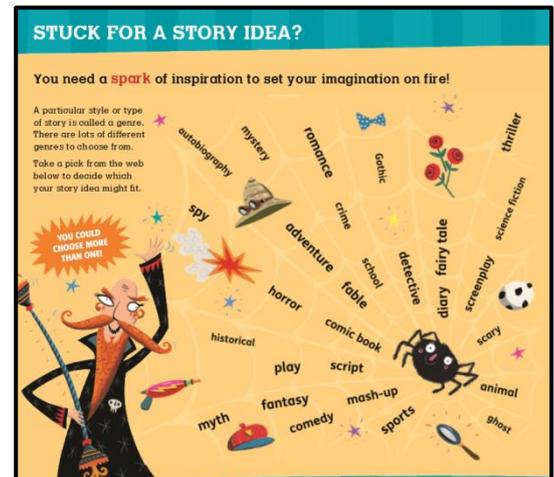


## Ideas to support writing:

- **Create a story book together** – each write one line (or paragraph or page) until you've created your very own story.
- **Make a mash-up story** that mixes together characters from different books, films and TV shows. Get your child to choose a favourite character from a book and create a story that puts them into their favourite TV show or videogame. How would Sherlock Holmes solve a Minecraft mystery? What would happen if the BFG entered *The X Factor*?
- Write a **different ending** to a film or book you've watched/read together.
- **Create 'A Day in the Life' book** - You need your camera (or buy your child a disposable camera). Then talk about documenting one day in your child's life (or a pet's or sister's or whomever they want). Start the day by photographing your child asleep just before you wake them. Then let them take a photo every hour of the entire day. Finish by taking a last shot of them, asleep. Next, print the photos and paste each one onto paper or into a scrap book. All they have to do is write the details that explain each picture – why they picked the subject, why it is important to their day, and who was nearby but not shown. Make a title page by writing "A Day in the Life of [your child]," with the date photographed.
- Write a **postcard** to a relative (become a penpal with a nan or grandad)
- Write the weekly **shopping list**
- Write **thank you cards** after receiving a present or visiting a friend's house
- Keep a **weekend diary**
- Write a **recipe** for making a favourite meal



## Useful websites

- <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/>
- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-site/expert-help/how-to-write-your-best-story-ever>
- <http://pobble365.com>
- <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/grammar-games>
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling\\_grammar/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/)
- <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy2.htm>
- <http://www.funbrain.com/grammar/>
- <http://www.english-online.org.uk/games/gamezone2.htm>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english>
- <http://phonicsplay.co.uk>

**Publish your child's writing: create a writing wall at home, display on the fridge or publish it online.**

## **Ideas to help with spelling**

**Attend our spelling workshops on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 9am or 6pm – no need to book, just turn up.**

### **Make the word**

Encourage children to make the words on their list out of different materials. These could include: magnetic letters, large letters torn from magazines or newspapers, pipe cleaners or plasticine

### **Alphabetical order**

Ask your child to put words in alphabetical order. You can help them by providing a copy of the alphabet or a simple dictionary. Increase the challenge by setting a time limit!

### **Look-Say-Cover-Write-Check**

Your child should

- Look at the new word closely, spotting the shape of the word, the order of letters, any smaller words contained within a larger word, familiar letter patterns etc.
- Say the word quietly to themselves while they look at it
- Cover the word or fold the paper back so the word cannot be seen
- Write the word from memory
- Check answer, repeat if necessary

### **Shannon's game**

This is a step on from the game of hangman. Without telling your child which one, choose one of the words from the spelling list. Draw dashes on to a piece of paper, one dash for every letter in the word (to make it easier you could add first letter to help). Your child then has to guess the next letter- without looking at their list. If they are correct you write in the next letter. If they are incorrect, you draw the first part of the hangman (as an alternative you could draw a flower). Your child has to guess the whole word before the drawing is completed.

### **Crosswords**

For more able children (year 2 and above), challenge them to produce a crossword puzzle, using words on their spelling list. Provide them with a blank grid and a dictionary. This will help them to write the clues. You can then answer the crossword, and check it together.

### **Just a minute**

How many words can they write in a minute – spelt correctly! Can they beat you or their own record!

### **Hidden words**

This is a game that you can prepare yourself. Write the words from your child's spelling list, hidden in a series of letters. Once they are hidden, ask your child to find them. For example

\_ shflplayknw

\_ gartwantlaj

You could circle the hidden words with coloured pens. To raise the challenge, you could set a time limit e.g. how many words can you find in one minute?

### **Word snap**

Help your child to write each of the words on their spelling list onto a small piece of coloured card or paper. Make two sets of the words. Shuffle them up and then deal between the players. Keeping the words face down, take it in turns to deal one card at a time and place it on the table. When two of the same words are turned over, one after the other, the player who spots this shouts 'snap' and wins the 2 cards. At the end of the game, the player with the most pairs of matching words is the winner.

An alternative to this game is to place both sets of cards out on the table face down. Take it in turns to choose two cards to turn over. If the pair matches you can keep it, if not place the cards back down on the table and the next player chooses two cards (this is also a very good memory game as the players must try to remember which words they have already seen and placed back down).