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Spelling Games By Benetta Strydom

Spelling Games

by: **Benetta Strydom**

The following spelling games can be used by parents to reinforce spelling in children:

SPELLING GAME 1: USE BOARD GAMES, SUCH AS MONOPOLY

Play any game that is normally played with dice with the child -- Monopoly, for example. The parent can continue to move her token forward in the normal way by throwing the dice, but the child must orally spell a word to move forward.

To select words that can be used, the parent can use words from the child's schoolwork that he often misspells. She must make word cards of these words. It is best to use not fewer than 20 words and not more than 30. When playing a board game, the same 20-30 words can be used, or if the child already knows how to spell them, other words can be selected. The parent must thoroughly shuffle the word cards, and then put them in a pile upside down on the table between the two (or more) players.

When it is the child's turn to play, the parent must take a word from the top of the pile and then say the word aloud. The child must spell the word. If the child spells the word correctly, he may move his token the same number of spaces as there are letters in the word. For example, for a word of seven letters he may move his token forward seven spaces. The word card is then put aside. If, however, he misspells the word, the parent must show the word to the child, and the child must spell the word aloud three times while looking at the word, and then three times without looking at it. Then the word is put at the bottom of the pile, so that it will come up again later. If the child misspells a word, he may also not move his token for that turn.

SPELLING GAME 2: HIDE AND SEEK GAME

Use the letters of a particular word, and build new words with these letters. For example, if one decides to use the word "difficulty," one would write this word on a piece of paper and put it in front of the child.

The aim of the game is that the child must make a list of all the words he can think of using only the letters of the chosen word. It can also be played as a competition, meaning the parent can play it with the child, and at the end, the one with the largest number of correctly spelled words, wins.

There are always many words that can be formed in this way, and in an indirect manner the spelling of the chosen word is practiced, while many other words are also tested for spelling. A few examples of words that can be formed from the letters of "difficulty" are: if, left, cult, cliff, fifty, duty, etc.

Note that each letter may be used once only. The letter f appears twice in the word "difficulty," and therefore a word like "fifty" is acceptable. "Dull," however, is not acceptable.

Some examples of words to be used: alphabetical; misunderstanding; occasionally; postponement; mayonnaise; multimillionaire; credibility; determination; education; friendship; generosity; hippopotamus.

SPELLING GAME 3: WORD JUMBLES

Another interesting method of practicing spelling is by making word jumbles. The child then has to sort out the confused letters to come up with a word, which he has been taught before.

Words must be selected from the child's schoolwork. Use a piece of paper, and write the word jumble on the paper. For example, if the letters "hergun" are written on the paper, the child must rearrange them to form the word "hunger."

SPELLING GAME 4: NAME, SURNAME, ANIMAL, AND CITY/TOWN

To play this game, the parent and child will both need a piece of paper and a pencil. Write the 26 letters of the alphabet on a piece of paper, and select a letter at random. The parent and the child must now, as fast as they can, write down a name, surname, animal and town that starts with the selected letter. The one that finishes first gives the other party only 5 seconds, before shouting "Stop!" and then all pencils must be put down.

Ten points are awarded for each correctly spelled word. If both parent and child had exactly the same word under one of the headings, for example, both had the same animal, only 5 points will be awarded if the word was correctly spelled.

Say, for instance, the letter "d" was selected:

Names: Douglas, Danny, David.

Surnames: Davis.

Animals: dog, dinosaur, deer.

City/Town: Dallas, Durban.

Benetta Strydom holds a B.Occup.Ther. Degree. Visit her online magazine, Learning Disabilities Online, http://www.audiblox2000.com/learning_disabilities/index.htm

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