

How to Use a Weekly Spelling Word List to Practice Reading Skills

Here's a way to practice naming letter sounds and blending those sounds together using a weekly spelling word list. Knowing each letter sound and how to blend them together easily is the foundation needed for reading to be more fluent and accurate.

When the list contains a word like *come*, explain that all vowels can become schwa sound – basically short U sound. And though many letters can be silent in English like 'e' at the end of *come*, knowing the sounds will help identify those silent letters for better spelling and reading.

If the list has words like *said* and *there*, this exercise will be a little trickier. Just explain that most English words can be easily sounded out when you know the letter sounds.

Preparation by parent: Write the spelling words in large letters on a sheet of paper and put a piece of tracing paper over it. Underline each two-letter sound such as 'ai' in *rain* or 'sh' in *push*.

1. Say the first word for your child and have her repeat it.
2. Then point to each letter or two-letters in the word and say its sound. Have her say the sound after you.
3. If there are silent letters like 'e' in *hope* or 'gh' in *right*, circle the letter or letters.
4. Hold up fingers as you say each sound to count them. Count the sounds, not the letters and point out when two letters make one sound.
5. At the end of the word, say all the sounds in sequence and finally say the word.

Tracing the Letters: Next, have your child use different colored markers to trace over each letter or letters in the word as she says its sound. Each **sound** will be a different color.

1. Encourage her to use a color whose first sound matches the letter sound. For instance, if the word is 'best' she could use a brown or blue to trace the letter B. For 'e' maybe she'll use a red marker since short E sound is in the word red. The middle sounds may be harder for her to identify initially than beginning and ending sounds.
2. Make it a sound matching game if she likes that. Maybe she'll come up with a word that starts with S and one that starts with T when she gets to those sounds.
3. After she's said each sound and traced each letter, say the sounds with her, pointing at each one. After the last letter, both of you say the word as you swipe your finger across it.
4. Come up with a sentence containing the word or words or even a story containing some of the words. Now letters and sounds get woven into meaning which is great for memory.

Ebooks to Help: My ebook [*Learn English Sounds with Pictures and Audio for Easier Spelling and Reading*](#) will give you a picture for each sound and audio for how to make the sound. The audio doesn't work on Apple products, though. Or if you want a more detailed look at spelling patterns for all the sounds, see [*Easier English for Dyslexics 1: All the Sounds in English*](#). But you don't need these ebooks to do the exercise above. All you need is the willingness to explore the sounds in words as you say and write them.

My ebook series was designed to appeal to students who do better when there's color and pictures to help them remember random information.