

How to Support your Child with their Tricky Words

In KS1 your child will be asked to read and write a set of words. These words are known as 'tricky words' because most of them cannot be decoded phonetically i.e. they cannot be sounded out. This information has been compiled in order to support you to support your child with their learning of tricky words. This is not an exhaustive list, but hopefully these ideas will enable you to develop fun and exciting ways to learn with your child at home.

Reading and Writing Tricky Words Lollipop Stick Matchup Write the tricky words across two lollipop sticks. Mix up all the sticks and see if your child can find the matching stick. Ensure your child can read the tricky word they have made. To make it trickier, do not use matching colours!

Pipe Cleaner Tricky Words Allow your child to see the tricky words and support them to make the letters out of pipe cleaners. Make this harder by covering the tricky word so your child has to do this from memory. Once the letters have been made, you could mix the letters up and see if your child can unscramble the letters to spell the tricky word.

Tricky Word Hopscotch This activity is active and allows your child to practise their tricky words. Use chalk to draw out a hopscotch with tricky words in each box – your child could even write these! Play Hopscotch as usual, throw a stone/bean bag onto a word (starting from the bottom) and hop scotch onto the word, read it and start again moving onto the next word.

Tricky Word Hunt Write the tricky words on post it notes and hide them around your home. Your child then has to find them as fast as they can and read them to you. **Tricky Word Wall** Write the tricky words on post it notes and stick them to a wall (alternatively you could write the words in chalk on a wall outside). Your child then bounces a ball off of one of the tricky words and reads that word aloud. Ensure your child reads the words correctly and then let them move onto another word.

Tricky Word Bowling At home you may have a bowling set, attach the tricky words and ask your child to knock down the pin with the tricky word that you read out. Alternatively you could make yourself a set of bowling pins by half filling plastic bottles with water.

Tricky Word Jenga You may have a game of Jenga at home, if you write the tricky words on the end of each block, your child can read the word before he/she pulls out the block.

Tricky Word Ring Toss Fill up some bottles with liquid and stick some of the tricky words to these bottles. You can then call a word and your child has to get a ring/hoop over the bottle with the correct word.

Tricky Word Smash Write your child's tricky words on pieces of paper. Read one of the words out loud, your child has to use an action figure or doll to smash the word that you read.

Writing in Different Mediums There are many ways to practise writing tricky words. Children enjoy learning when it is multi-sensory. To make writing tricky words more enjoyable cover a baking tray or a lap tray in shaving foam, sugar/salt, rice, body lotion, sand, glitter etc. encourage your child to write their tricky words in these materials.

Roll the Dice Stick a label with a tricky word on each side of a die. Let your child roll the die they then must read and copy the word on the dice.

Using Magnetic Letters - You may have magnetic letters at home, you can encourage your children to 'write' their tricky words on the fridge, on the table or on the floor using these letters. Please ensure the magnetic letters you use are lower case and not capital letters.

Writing in Paint Put some paint in a ziplock bag or a resealable sandwich bag and seal it carefully. Your child can then use a cotton bud to write their tricky words in the paint. To ensure no leaks, it is best to secure the edge of the bag with sticky tape.

These are only a few ideas to help support your child with reading and writing their tricky words. If you have any ideas to add to this list please let me know so I can share with other parents.

Please remember all children learn at a different pace. These are ideas for you and your child to have fun and learn together at home.