

## Learning Spellings at Home

Please see below a range of different activities you can carry out with your child to help them learn their weekly spellings and key word spellings. Here are some fun ways of playing with words!

### Spelling flashcards

**Pairs:** Create a double set of the words your child is finding tricky. Pick up two cards at a time until they find a pair. Can they verbally spell it out to you?

**Flip, Read, Letters and Write:** Your child can learn their spellings in 4 quick steps. Have the child flip over a card, read it, spell out the letters and then write it down.

**Trace, Copy, Recall:** Fold a piece of paper into three columns and label them trace, copy and recall. Write the word in the first column and have your child trace it. Next, get them to copy the word in the next column by looking back at the letters. Finally, get them to fold and hide the first two columns and practise writing the word in the final column.

**Pocket Cards:** Make small cards to keep in your pocket or bag and when you are walking to school, making breakfast or sitting in the park ask the children to spell the words to you. With pen, pencil, marker and paper:

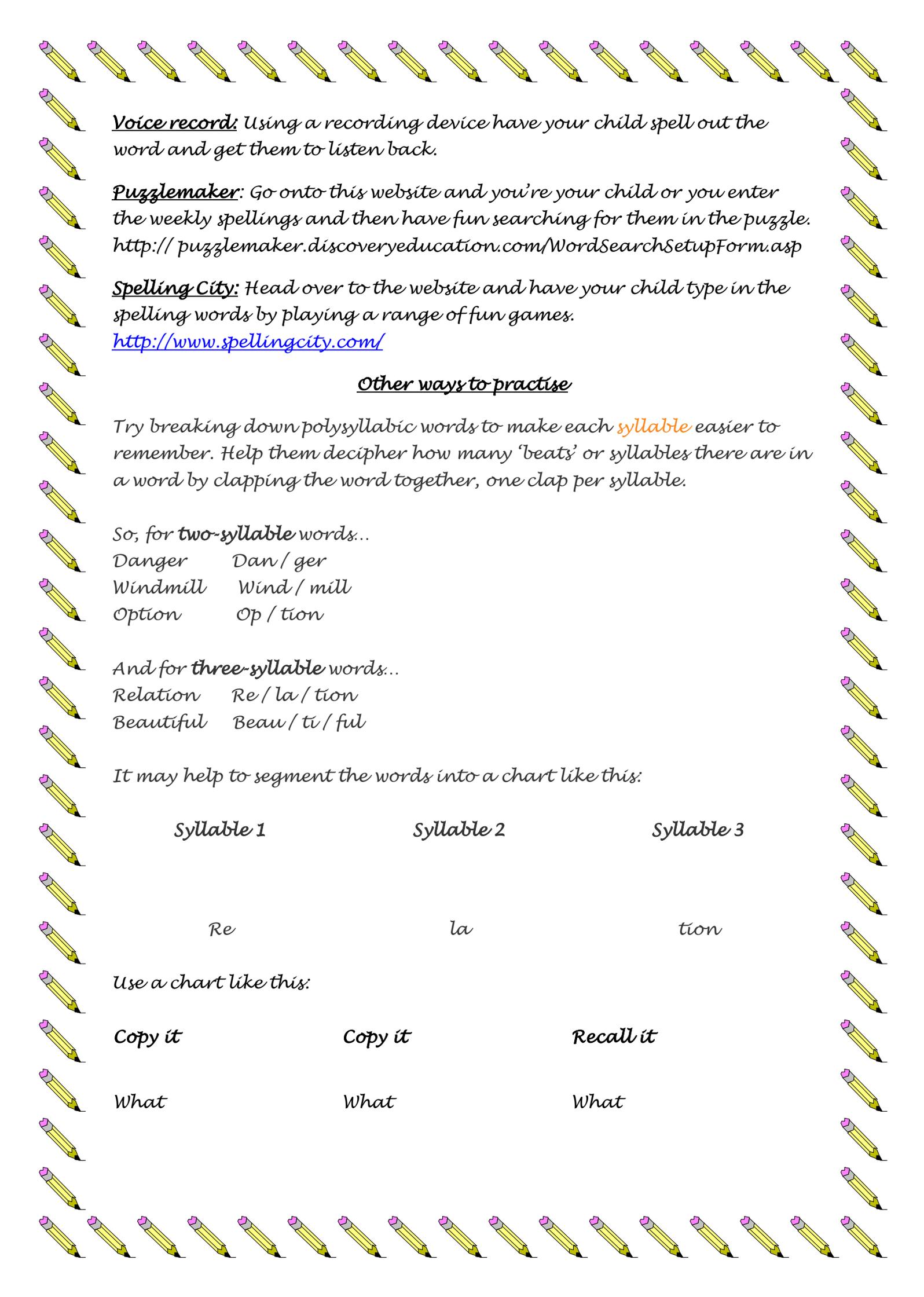
**Spelling Puzzle:** Make a home-made puzzle by writing the words in large on a piece of card. Get your child to cut it up and then can they piece it back together again?

**Stairs:** Write the words as if they are stairs, adding one letter each time:  
S, Sp, Spe, Spel, Spell

**Tic-Tac-Toe:** This game is a favourite of the children's and is often best known as Os and Xs. Using the spelling words the child needs to make get three in a row of the words spelt correctly. They can compete with you or a friend.

### With a computer or tablet

**Type it out:** Open up a document to type on. Call out the word for the child to spell. They can then play around with the word; increase the font size, change the colour etc. .



**Voice record:** Using a recording device have your child spell out the word and get them to listen back.

**Puzzlemaker:** Go onto this website and you're your child or you enter the weekly spellings and then have fun searching for them in the puzzle.  
<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>

**Spelling City:** Head over to the website and have your child type in the spelling words by playing a range of fun games.  
<http://www.spellingcity.com/>

### Other ways to practise

Try breaking down polysyllabic words to make each **syllable** easier to remember. Help them decipher how many 'beats' or syllables there are in a word by clapping the word together, one clap per syllable.

So, for **two-syllable** words...

Danger     Dan / ger  
Windmill     Wind / mill  
Option     Op / tion

And for **three-syllable** words...

Relation     Re / la / tion  
Beautiful     Beau / ti / ful

It may help to segment the words into a chart like this:

Syllable 1

Syllable 2

Syllable 3

Re

la

tion

Use a chart like this:

Copy it

Copy it

Recall it

What

What

What



After your child has copied the word twice, fold the paper over so they can't see what they've written and ask them to have a go at writing the word unaided. They should be able to recall the spelling without looking.

Another classic technique is known as Look, cover, Write and Check.

So, they **look** at the word...

**Cover** the word...

**Write** the word...

And finally **check** it.

Sometimes, visualising a difficult word in a different way can suddenly make it stick. Create a phrase from each letter of a word and turn it into an acrostic, which can be easier to remember than the word itself. Try these, or have your child make up their own!

**Because:**

**B**ig

**E**lephants

**C**an

**A**lways

**U**nderstand

**S**mall

**E**lephants

**O**cean: **O**nly **C**ats' **E**yes **A**re **N**arrow

**R**hythm: **R**hythm **H**elps **Y**our **T**wo **H**ips **M**ove

**N**ecessary: **N**ever **E**at **C**hips **E**at **S**alad **S**andwiches **A**nd **R**aspberry **Y**oghurt