

WORDCRAFT

Adventure



*A journey of becoming a
spelling word crafter*





Supporting children with dyslexia learners to spell

Dyslexia is primarily a language-based processing difference that affects how the brain interprets and manipulates sounds, especially in relation to reading and spelling. While it does not reflect a child's intelligence or effort, dyslexia can make it difficult to connect sounds (phonemes) with their written forms (graphemes), which is essential for accurate spelling. This phonological processing difficulty often results in inconsistent spelling errors, even in familiar words, and challenges with remembering the sequence of letters. Because spelling requires strong working memory, sequencing skills, and an understanding of language rules—all areas where dyslexic learners may struggle - targeted, multisensory approaches are vital to support their development.

Dyslexic learners benefit most from structured, multisensory spelling approaches that engage sight, sound, movement, and touch. Techniques such as rainbow writing, syllable chunking, air writing, and using visual cues like word shape or colour coding can help strengthen memory and make spelling patterns more recognizable. These strategies help learners form connections between the sounds in words (phonemes) and their written forms (graphemes), which is often an area of difficulty for dyslexic individuals. Repetition and overlearning are essential, so frequent, short, and focused practice sessions are more effective than longer, infrequent ones.

When introducing spelling words, it is helpful to group them by patterns or features - such as common prefixes or suffixes (e.g. un-, re-, -ing, -ed), phonics rules (e.g. ai as in train, ay as in play), or tricky high-frequency words that don't follow phonetic rules. These "spelling families" support generalisation and pattern recognition. It's best to introduce no more than 5 to 7 words at a time to avoid cognitive overload, allowing learners to develop confidence and mastery before moving on. Consistent review of previous words alongside new ones helps reinforce learning and supports long-term retention.

Build the word

example

was

Copy the word

Build the word from the letter set

Drag each letter, sounding out the word

Draw around the shape of each letter

Write the word again here

You will need:

magnetic or wooden letters
dry wipe pen & eraser



Pyramid writing (or chaining)

example

h
ho
hom
home



Copy the word and then build the pyramid (try backwards too)

Copy the word



You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



That's an order

example
because
could
should
would



Write your words in alphabetical order

You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



Fancy Letters

example

because
could
should
would



Use fancy letters to write your words (check the spellings carefully)
Try curly and dotty letters too!

You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



Bubble writing

example

again
floor



Write your spellings in bubble writing. Then draw inside each letter

You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



Mirror words

example

the eht



Write the word forwards, then backwards

You will need:

dry wipe pen & eraser



Lefty Righty

example

*untidy
because*



Write your words with the other hand

You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



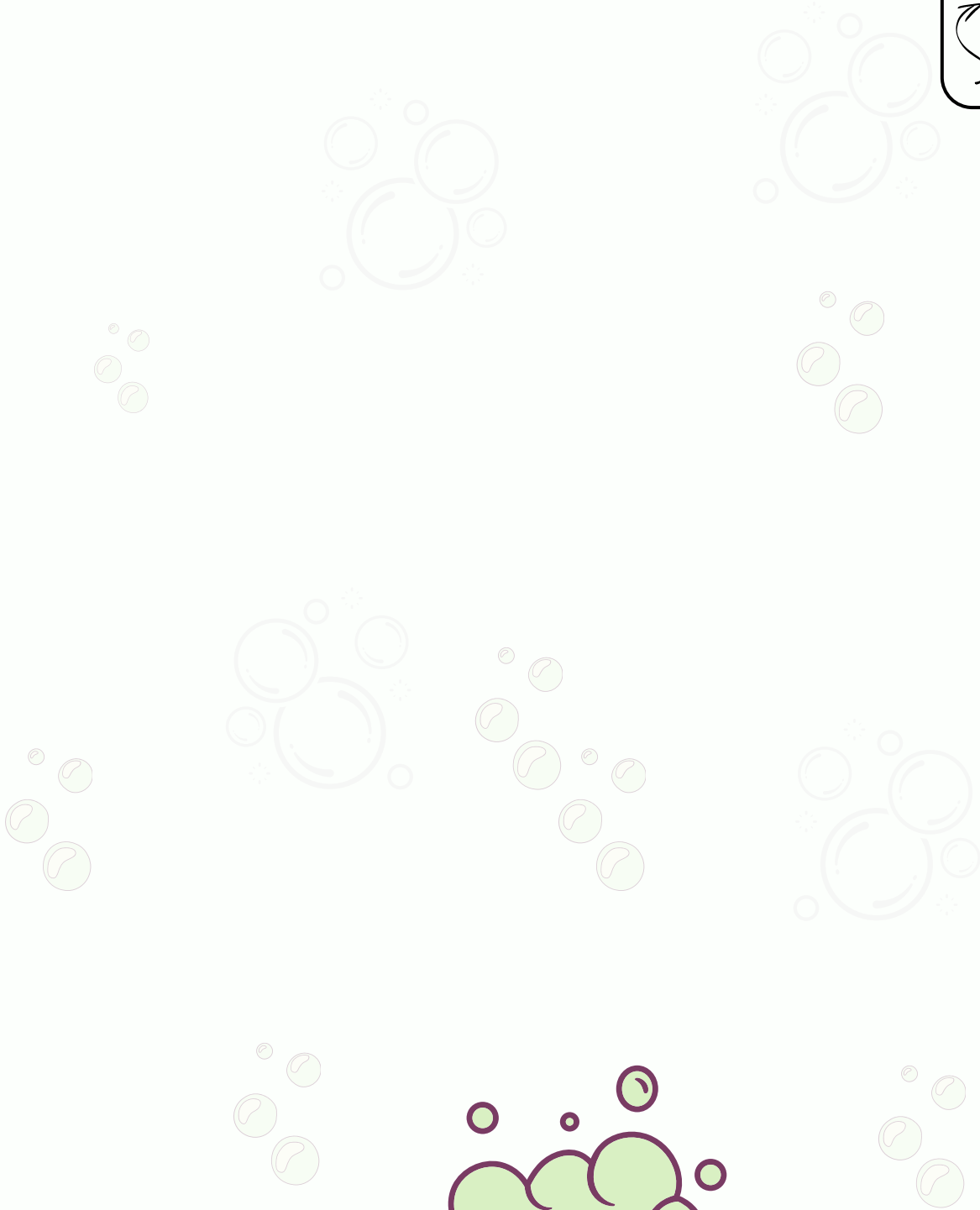
Cauldron Spells

example

n-a-g-a



Write you words rising up from the cauldron



You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



Cartoon dots

example

Mr
beard



Add dots to the ascenders, descenders, bars and stems

You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



Secret agent

example

3, 1, 22, 5

c a v e

Spell out your words in secret code. Put a line under any uppercase letter

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

You will need:

dry wipe pen & eraser



Box word

example

o n l y



Write your word, then draw a box around each letter.

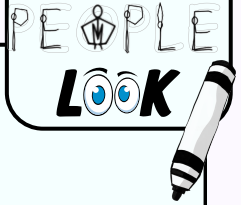
Next draw the boxes and then insert the letters

You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



Picture words

example



Draw a picture around your tricky words to help remember

You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



Dotty words

example

climb
move



Create each words in dots and then trace

You will need:
dry wipe pen & eraser



Noughts and crosses

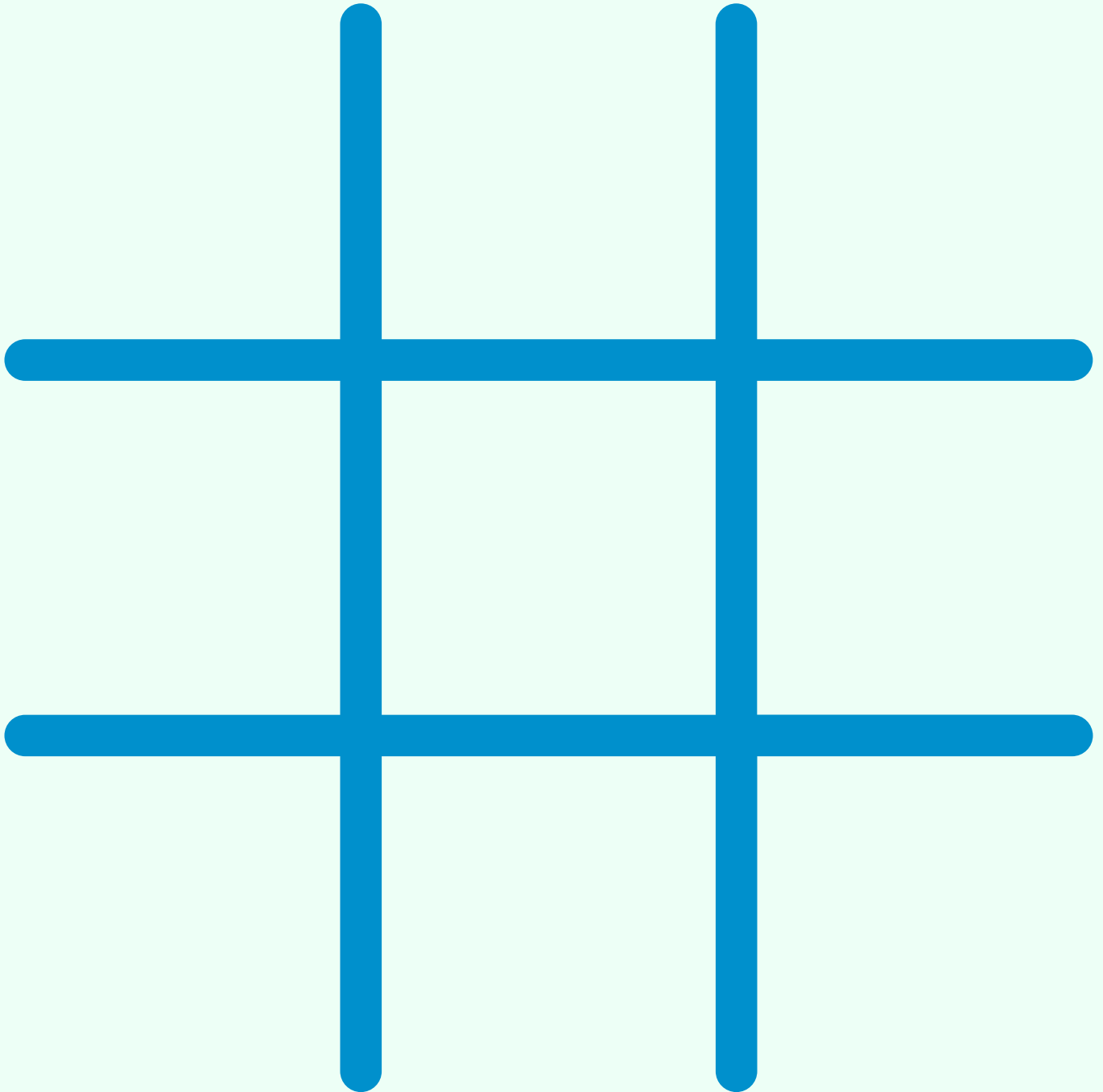
example



2 player game

Each player has the other player's spellings (5)

Player 1 reads one of player 2's spellings. Player 2 then chooses a space to write their word. If they get the spelling correct, they keep the space, if they get it wrong, then the spelling is wiped away and that space is available again. Player 2 then reads player 1's spelling etc. The winner is the first player to get 3 correct spellings in a row



You will need:

dry wipe pen & eraser



More sensory spelling strategies

Multisensory & Visual Activities

1. Rainbow Spell – Write the word in one colour, then trace over it with two or more different colours.
2. Picture Words – Turn letters into parts of pictures (e.g. make the “b” in “bat” into a baseball bat).
3. Air Writing with Oral Spelling – Say each letter aloud while writing the word in the air with a large arm movement.
4. Syllable Chunking with Colour – Break words into syllables and write each syllable in a different colour.
5. Picture Words – Turn letters or words into visual images (e.g., draw ‘e’ in ‘elephant’ into a trunk).

Games & Challenges

1. Mix-Up & Fix – Write the word with letters jumbled up; student reorders them correctly.
2. Missing Letter – Write the word with one or two letters missing; student fills them in.
3. Word Hunt – Write a group of words with similar patterns and find hidden spelling rule (e.g. words ending in -ight).
4. Wrong Spell Spotter – Write the word with a deliberate mistake; student corrects it.
5. Beat the Clock – Time how quickly a student can spell the word correctly three times in a row.

Movement & Kinaesthetic Activities

1. Air Writing – Spell the word by writing it in the air with a finger, then write it on the board.
2. Big-Little Spell – Write the word in big letters, then in small letters. Alternate for fun.
3. Spell & Jump – Say each letter while doing a jump or action, then write it out on the board.
4. Mirror Words – Write the word forwards, then backwards (helps with sequencing).
5. Write with Your Other Hand – Practice spelling using the non-dominant hand for novelty and focus

Pattern & Sound Focused

1. Syllable Slaps – Clap syllables as you write them out on the board.
2. Vowel Swap – Highlight or colour-code vowels to help reinforce tricky parts of the word.
3. Rhyme Time – Find and write rhyming words that follow the same spelling pattern.
4. Sound It Out – Break the word into phonemes and write each part separately, then blend.
5. Spelling Families – Group words that share a root or pattern (e.g. run, runner, running)

