

Spelling Task: Revise the spelling.

Play these games with your family:



1 The Letter Game This game can be played anywhere, with two or more people, and you don't even need a pencil and paper. Start by picking a category, like animals or food. One person starts by saying a word (e.g., orange). The next person has to say a word in the same category that starts with the last letter of the first word (eggplant). For added interest with more than two players, the order reverses if someone says a word that starts and ends with the same letter.

2 Scrabble Scramble This quick adapted version of Scrabble, which doesn't use the board (and is similar to Boggle). Choose eight letters out of the bag without looking, and put them face down on the table. When everyone is ready, turn the letters over and start a timer. Each person writes down as many words as they can make from the letters in one minute (or two). The person with the greatest number of unique words (the ones no one else got) wins.

How many words can you make from this 9 letter grid?

e	o	t
n	i	u
r	c	s

3 Memory Match This is a great way to reinforce school spelling words, which are usually categorized by attributes such as vowel sounds. Write words in two categories—say, short O sounds

and long O sounds—on slips of paper (for example hop and hope). Place them all face down on a table and have one player choose two. If they belong to the same family, it's a match and the player keeps them. Otherwise, the player turns them back over and the next person tries.

4 Spelling Bee This is exactly what it sounds like and can be played anywhere. Have one person call out words for others to spell. If you miss a word, you're out of the round. Keep words age-appropriate for young players and try for the trickiest words with the grownups.

5 The Un-Spelling Game Here's one that's fun for families with older kids. It's similar to the letter game in that it goes around a group, only this time each person says a letter. The goal is to arrange letters that *could* be a word, but without actually making a word (for example, after E-X-A-... adding an M would make a word; a C wouldn't). If a person adds a letter that completes a word or makes an impossible combination, they get a point. Five points and you're out.