

1. SPAG-tastic Spellers!

The National Curriculum has a spelling list for Year 5/6. It's a list of words that your child should know by the end of Year 6. Sometimes making your child write the word three times can be ineffective. Why not try one of the following?

- Try playing games involving spelling words or give them exercises where they need to fill in the missing letter.
- Give three misspelled words and one correctly spelled word and have your child circle the correct one.
- If you have Scrabble somewhere hidden away, take it out and make use of those individual letters. Have your child spell the words out with the letters. Make it interactive for your child so that it doesn't become a boring spelling routine.

2. Voracious Vocabbers!

One thing I've noticed about children who have a wide range of vocabulary is that they read a lot. The KS2 SPAG tests will require your child to have a solid vocabulary. Give some of these a go:

- Try giving them a word and have them find three synonyms or antonyms within 45 seconds using a thesaurus.
- Give a 'Word of the Day' and challenge your child to use it correctly and report back to you how they used it throughout the day.
- Make use of your local library with your child. Have them read various genres and keep a reading log. It'll not only help your child with their reading skills, but also their writing skills. To help motivate your child, keep a sticker chart and reward them after a certain amount of books. We all love a pat on the back from time to time.



Help your child reach that 100 on their KS2 SATs SPAG test with our 5 top tips.

www.satscompanion.com/spag-ks2-sats

3. Grammar Gurus!

Many children struggle with labelling parts of speeches and using correct tenses. Help your child become a Grammar Guru by trying some of the following:

- Ask your child to highlight nouns in one colour, verbs in another, etc. Sometimes, children find it easier to memorise when things are colour-coded.
 - Write down grammar terminologies on note cards and have your child give you one correct example. Challenge your children by having them race against the clock or their previous scores.

5. Keep a daily journal

When we ask children to write stories or essays, many children find the idea of needing to write a lot daunting. Instead, have your child keep a daily journal that requires a certain grammar rule or punctuation rule. Afterwards, read through their journal with them, review the incorrect usages and have them correct themselves. It not only helps your child with their writing skills, but it will also let your child see where they are making mistakes.

4. Punctuation Perfectionists!

The KS2 SPAG test also tests your child on whether or not they know how to correctly punctuate sentences. It's important that you know the punctuation rules as well, so have a quick review before you work with your child. Here are some tips to help:

- Give your child silly sentences and have them correctly punctuate them.
- Tackle the common errors first. Children often struggle with colons & semi-colons, apostrophes and dashes. Look through your child's writing and work with them to identify correct usage of punctuation.
- Read through a book together and copy out a few examples of sentences. Read through these with and without punctuation to see what a difference it makes. This will help your child understand the importance of each punctuation mark.



1. Be aware of what's required for reading comprehension at your child's age. For the SATs test, both non-fiction and fiction texts could be used. Try to encourage reading of both types of texts through newspapers, online articles and novels. Summarising news stories to a 'tweet' size of 140 characters is a good way to help them pick out the main points from the article.



Here's our top 5 tips for improving reading comprehension.

www.satscompanion.com/help-with-reading-comprehension

2. Whilst some questions will require a straight forward answer from the text, others need a little more digging to try and work out what is going on between the lines. Try making connections between the themes of the book, and relate this back to similar themes in other books or films. If the story is an filled with adventure perhaps you could discuss a film they've watched which might contain a similar type of theme. This helps develop their understanding of the themes, and will encourage them to think laterally about a novel.

3. Skills needed for comprehension such as deduction and inference can be worked on at home. Discuss a book together and ask probing questions to about what your child feels the author is trying to convey. Encourage your child to highlight or underline areas where they feel the author is saying something important about a character. Then piece together all these clues and create a character analysis. Ask questions like: Why do you think the character acted in that way? What do you think they will do next?

5. Improve vocabulary which can help build their understanding, particularly with more challenging texts. We love to use a vocabulary word of the week at home which goes up on our fridge! Encourage your child to pick out a word for the week using their thesaurus.

4. Make sure your child uses evidence from the text to back up the answer. They need to be able to pinpoint exactly which part of the text corresponds to their answer and be able to explain why. Read a news article together and ask your child to highlight which part of the article explains the who, what, when, where and how.