Visual Memory Spelling Strategies

1. Circle the right one.

- Write out the words, but include wrong spellings.
- The child needs to circle the right one and explain how they know. e.g. escaped, escapt holidays holydays hollidays

2. Colour-block and trace.

- Get the child to colour block the letters EXACTLY as THEY want it does not need to match either the syllables or the sounds. This will show how the child actually sees the word.
- The teacher / peer can draw the shapes of three words the child is learning and get the child to identify which shape represents each word before writing in the letters on the blank shapes to spell each word.

3. Naughty letters.

- Spot the 'naughty' letter in a word (the letter that is unexpected or which you often miss out or get wrong) and write the word with the 'naughty' letter bigger than the rest. You can even draw a picture for that letter, e.g. draw a face around the 'o' in people, draw a fruit for the 'i' in juicy.
- Look at the spellings written this way, then cover them, try to write the word and then look back and check.

4. Pyramid words.

Write the word a letter at a time in a pyramid shape
Py
pyr
pyra
pyrami
pyramid

5. Spot a word in a word.

 Children spot words that they can spell within words that they cannot yet spell, e.g. 'a rat' in 'separate'. Children can make up a silly sentence to help them remember, e.g. There's a rat in sep – a – rat – e. This is further supported by saying the word in a way that emphasises the word within a word.

