

Multi-sensory teaching ideas

Here are some useful ideas for multi-sensory teaching from our BDA Tutor Team

Primary

Reading

- Play Bingo, Splat and Snap with common exceptions words
- Create a treasure hunt looking for words / phonemes around the room, house, garden etc.
- Match objects with phonemes, e.g. car / ar, snail / ai
- Cut up simple sentences for students to order
- Sorting real / non real words

Spelling

- Mnemonics: Sally Ann is dancing = said. Making up their own helps to remember them
- Spell words using different medias, e.g. paint, chalk on the floor, magnetic letters on whiteboard / fridge, Play-Doh etc.
- Making / decorating personalised spelling mats or posters with key misspelt words
- Chaining and tracking activities
- Picture links for those that like drawing

Writing

- BBC Dance Mat Typing - learn how to touch type for free: <https://bbc.in/3LJJDYb>
- Fine motor skills - pegs, threading, sewing, theraputty, cheerios onto sticks, dough disco on You Tube
- Handwriting - Jedi writing / fairy wands, to practice letter formation
- Role play stories to elicit key vocab and record their versions using ICT
- Create mind maps for topics
- Create cartoons or animé for older pupils

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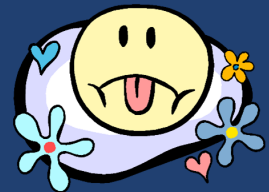
Visual

- Using different writing implements such as gel pens, chalk on the playground, felt-tips, glitter pens etc.
- Water painting with brushes on the playground, on a megasketcher, water colour paints etc.
- Using a torch to 'write' on a wall, ceiling etc.
- Drawing and writing on different textured paper such as greaseproof paper, aluminium foil, corrugated card etc.
- Use sticker shapes / stars to make large letters
- Use of ICT such as Wordshark, Numbershark gives lots of visual feedback when learning letters and numbers
- Cutting out letter shapes and sticking them in a visible place. Use colour. Practise writing particular sounds in certain colours
- Draw a picture that links letter sounds such as a picture with things that begin with 'm' or with 'ai' words
- Use of facial expression by the teacher
- Rainbow writing



Gustatory

- Finger painting with whipped cream
- Drawing with icing on top of a frosted cake
- Draw on crackers with cheese spread
- Ice onto biscuits with writing (tube) icing
- Warm spaghetti and make letter shapes
- Writing in a tray of sugar
- Use alphabites or spaghetti alphabet to fish out letters and make words



Olfactory

- Drawing and writing with scented markers.
- Use cut out letters; make them smell of perfume, mint, curry
- Use Play-Doh to make letters and numbers - add scents to the Play-Doh
- Add scents to finger paints
- Writing in a tray of talcum powder



Auditory

- State how the letter is formed when writing it e.g. straight down and back to the rainbow for 'r' or 'w' starts at the top of the hill, slide down, climb up again
- Use consistent instructions when talking about letter formation - send this home
- Play music or a short jingle when practising a particular letter, and attach a bell to the pen
- Use different voices to present words
- Use a tape recorder to spell words aloud
- Mnemonics



Tactile

- Writing on different textured papers
- Writing in trays of sand, sugar, flour, sand, talc, gloop, custard powder, shaving foam etc.
- Trace over letters with finger made out of spaghetti, sandpaper, wool etc.
- Walking, skipping, and hopping along ropes making letter shapes
- Cutting out letter shapes and sticking them in different places
- Making letter shapes out of glitter
- Use of a feely alphabet
- Use of a feely bag with wooden letters in
- Making letters out of Play-Doh and salt dough and decorating them
- Plant cress seeds in the shape of letters
- Write letters on each others backs with a finger
- Stepping stone letters and foot print letters - step on the letters to make a word
- Letter stampers
- Video memory - acting out a sequence which links words
- Fridge spelling with magnets. This can be used at home is often a big hit, as well as sponge letters on the wall at bath time



ICT

- Consolidate or introduce writing and spelling using tools like Nessy reading and spelling www.nessy.com/uk
- Encourage the use of spell checkers to edit work, fostering a sense of confidence and independence
- Use varying forms of media to create short stories and films which can support learning

Other ideas for the classroom

- Use reading rulers to help with tracking, focus and attention
- Use a Rolodex to help with organising grammar, sounds or subject specific words for reading and spelling
- Use pictures from catalogues, old newspapers and books, for identifying initial phonemes or blends. Students can cut these out and stick them down, creating a poster of sounds
- Role play