

# How to run your family spelling bee

## Set the stage.

Pick a time in week 8. Clear a corner of the living room. A wooden spoon makes a fine microphone. Invite grandparents on a video call if you like. The fancier you make it, the bigger it feels.

## The rules, kid-sized.

1. Each speller gets words from their own list. A kindergartner and a 4th grader can compete in the same bee.
2. The pronouncer (that's you) says the word, uses it in a sentence, and says it again.
3. The speller repeats the word, spells it, then says the word again. Just like the real thing.
4. Missed a word? In a family bee, you get one more word before you're out. This is about confidence, not elimination.
5. Last speller standing is the champion. Everyone who spells gets a certificate. The champion gets bragging rights and maybe ice cream.

## Pronouncer tips.

Speak slowly. Give the sentence every time. If a younger kid freezes, ask "want to hear it again?" instead of counting down. Cheer for brave tries.

## After the bee.

Fill in the certificates and take a photo of the moment. That photo is the whole point of the summer.

