

Ways to Help Children Learn Sight Words

- * Only teach 3 or 4 new words at a time

When teaching new words: show the word and say "The word is ____."

Ask the child, "What word is this?"

Say, "It begins with ____ and ends with _____. It is spelled _____." Repeat the word.

Ask the child, "What word is this?"

--- Repeat the steps for the next new word ---

Then go back to the first word and have the child say the word and spell the word.

Go to the 2nd word and have the child say it and spell it.

Introduce 3rd new word or go back and review old words.

Example:

This word is "was"

What word is this?

It begins with a "w" and ends with an "s".

It is spelled "w-a-s, was."

What word is this?

- * Keep practice time fun and short 5-10 minutes at a time.
- * Practice throughout the day – at breakfast, waiting in lines, during homework time, and/or right before bed.
- * Have your child look for sight words when reading to him or her. Look for them on menus, on road signs, in books, and anywhere else you see print.
- * Spend lots of time reviewing words. A child typically needs to practice a word 12-14 times before they have it memorized
- * Treat learning new words as a fun and beneficial activity. Your child's attitude towards learning will be a direct reflection of your own
- * Encourage and Praise your child often. Reward them with extra time with you, play time, and lots of hugs!

Fun Ideas for Practicing High Frequency Words

- A. Use favorite board games. Read a sight word before taking a turn.
- B. Spell sight words outside in the dirt or sand with a stick or inside with flour on a cookie sheet.
- C. Make sight words using magnetic letters on the fridge
- D. Write sight words on post its. You call out a word and they slap it with a fly swatter
- E. Use a spatula to flip over sight word cards after they read a word.
- F. Put cards in Ziploc baggies and tape them in the tub. Squirt them with a spray bottle when you read them
- G. Do you have stairs? Put one word on each stair. When they read the word correctly, they go up a stair. Miss a word, the adult reads it to them and they go down a stair. Read those correctly and go back up to try that word again.
- H. Put paper clips on each card and use a magnet on a string to fish for sight words
- I. Write the words outside in sidewalk chalk
- J. Hide the words in plastic eggs and read them when you open the egg.
- K. Put words on the floor on index cards or cheap papers plates and hop from word to word, reading as you go.
- L. Make a parking lot and write sight words in each parking space. You call out a word and they park the car on the word
- M. Alphabet stamps – stamp the words on paper or playdoh
- N. Write the words on red solo cups, read the words correctly and use them to build a tower. Then bowl or throw a ball to knock down the tower.
- O. Write the words on a chalkboard and erase them with a paint brush after naming them.
- P. I spy with my little eye a word that starts with the letter __ and ends with a ____.
What word is it?