

Sight Words

Sight words are words that cannot be learned through pictures or by stretching out their sounds. They appear frequently in all books. It is important for your child to become automatic at identifying sight words. Here are some fun ways to expose your child to the words.

Frequent exposure:

- Write the words your child needs to learn on Post-it sticky notes. Stick them anywhere your child goes. On the wall near their bed to review before going to sleep and when waking up, in the bathroom to practice while washing hands, on the wall near the table to review during meal time, in the car on the back of the seat in front of your child, etc.
- Carry an extra set of cards to review when you and your child are waiting in line at the grocery store, restaurant, etc.

Sight word games:

- Lay the words flat on the floor in a little path. Have your child read each word as they hop along the path. If you have stairs at home, put a word on each step and have your child say each word as they climb the stairs.
- Make two sets of word cards and play "Memory". Take turns turning over two cards at a time, trying to make a match.
- Play "Go Fish". Make two sets of word cards and pass out all but 5-6 of the cards. Put these in a stack, face down, on the table. Look for matches in your set of cards. Take turns asking each other for cards to make matches. If a person doesn't have the card you asked for they say "Go Fish" and you draw a card for the pile.
- Lay 3-5 cards facing up so that your child can see them. Play rhyming games such as, "I'm thinking of a word that rhymes with me, but it begins with /w/." (we)

- Put the words on the wall and turn off the lights. Give your child a flashlight and have him/her shine the flashlight on each word as he/she reads it.
- Play "What's Missing". Lay 3-4 words on the table and have your child read the words and then close his/her eyes. Remove one of the words. Ask your child to open their eyes and identify the word that was missing. Then take a turn closing your eyes!

Multi-sensory ways to learn and practice sight words:

- Write the words in shaving cream.
- Write the words with a stick outside in the sand.
- Put magnetic letters on the refrigerator or metal cookie sheet to build words.
- Use a highlighter or crayon to help your child find his sight words in the newspaper, magazines, etc.
- Jump, hop, clap, tap out the letters of the sight word (t - h - e "the").

Tips:

- The stack of sight word cards that you practice with your child should have more known than unknown words to build in success. When he/she knows most of the stack, remove the easiest 3 words and replace them with 3 new cards.
- Practice in short sessions. Two 8 minute sessions is way more productive than one 16 minute session.
- If your child becomes frustrated, change the activities or take a break. If this doesn't help, send a note to the teacher asking for suggestions.