

sight word activities

Sight words are words found most often in texts (i.e. the, a, I, am, me). When students automatically know a word, and don't spend much time trying to sound it out, reading becomes much easier and faster! Here are some activities that you can do with your child to practice sight word identification at home (many of these activities are already done in the classroom so your child may be familiar with them). Thank you for your cooperation in making your child's education a success.



Flash Cards

Write one sight word on each index card (you can even make them in different colours). Hold up one card at a time and quiz your child to see if he/she can identify the word. See how many words he/she knows by keeping score and then repeat the activity a few weeks later to see if there is an improvement.



Matching Game

Write the words on another piece of paper (or index card), turn them all face down and see if your child can choose two words that are the same. Ask your child to read the words after he/she chooses the cards.



Magnetic Letters

Choose a few sight words and ask your child to use magnetic letters to copy the words. As your child is finding the letters, ask him/her to say the word chosen. After this is complete, he/she can write the word on paper, or try to use it in a sentence.



Playdough words

Using playdough (store bought playdough from the Dollar Store works great), have your child roll (make "snakes") one letter at a time to spell the sight word. This is similar to an activity we do in class where the students are asked to roll out the letter of the week and words that start with that letter. Your child can practice saying the sight word as he/she rolls it.



Pointer Fun

Give your child a variety of pointers (i.e. pencils, magic wands, chopsticks, etc.) and ask him/her to point to a word as you say it. Try this: play this game where your child says the word and you point to it using the wand. Just for fun, point to the incorrect word and see if your child can spot the mistake!



Sand Words

Using a metal baking sheet, sprinkle some sand (you may use salt or cornstarch if you don't have sand) onto it so that a thin layer is created. Ask your child to choose a word and write the word in the sand using his/her pointer finger. The word magically erases by shaking the tray carefully. Ask your child to say the sight word being created in the sand.



Rainbow Letters

Ask your child to say and then draw a sight word on a piece of paper using a pencil. He/she can then go over it many times using a variety of coloured pencils, markers or crayons. Be sure that your child is saying the word out loud each time.



Write a Letter

Leaving a note for your child in his/her lunch box, on the kitchen table before dinner, or on the bed before going to sleep is a great way to keep your child interested in reading. Be sure to include some of the high frequency words that we are studying. For example:

Hi (name), have a good day at school. Love, (name)

Good morning, (name), I miss you and will see you later. Love,
(name)

Although your child won't be able to read all of the words, he/she will be excited to read many of them.

Thank you and happy sight word reading!