

# Parent's Guide to Sight Words

Your child is working in a small group on the basic skills needed to learn to read. Sight words are one of the essential skills that you can help with at home. I have provided you with the list of sight words that we will be practicing in class. These words are found in many of the books your child will read. However, these are words that do not follow any decoding rules, so they must be memorized. Students should be able to read the words within 5 seconds. Practicing with your child will make a big difference!

## All About Sight Words

Here are some ways to make sight word practice fun for all!

- Write each sight word on a card.
- Sight words should be recognized by SIGHT. "Sounding out" will not always work, and students should be able to read the word in 5 seconds.
- When the child is working on the first few words it may be necessary to start with 5-8 words and put doubles of each card in the stack. Never have more than 20 cards in the stack.
- 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 knows most of the stack, remove the easiest 3-5 and add 3-5 new cards.
- Practice in short sessions. Two 8 minute sessions will be more productive than one 16 minute session.
- Set goals with your child. How many can he get right? Raise the goal by just a few each time to build in success.

## Flash Card Games

1. **Can you find?** Lay cards on table, face up. Ask the student to find a given word. If they find it, they keep it. Keep going until all cards are picked up.
2. **Who has more?** Flash cards to student. If they read the word within 5 seconds, they keep the card. If not, you keep the card. The goal is that the child has more than you at the end of the game.
3. **Concentration** Using double copies of the words, take turns turning over two cards at a time, trying to make a match. The player must read the word correctly to get the match.
4. **Go Fish** Using double copies of the words, pass out all but 5-6 of the words. Put these in a stack, face down, on the table. Look for matches in your set of cards (each player must be able to read the word or the set goes in the stack on the table). Take turns asking each other for cards to make matches. The person with the most matches at the end is the winner.
5. **BINGO** Draw a simple Bingo card (5 boxes wide and 5 high) and put sight words in the boxes. You may need to repeat words to have 25 words. On little slips of paper put the locations (B1 etc.). Draw a slip and if the child can read the word in the box they get to put a token in the corresponding box on his BINGO card. If he can't read it, you get to put a token in your corresponding box. The winner is the person who gets 5 boxes in a row.
6. **Slap Jack** Draw a star on the back of one of the flashcards. Place this card and the flashcards face down on the table. Take turns turning over a card and reading the words. When the star card is turned over, the first player to slap it wins.

## Other Activities

1. Using a highlighter or crayon help the child find his sight words in print (newspaper, magazine etc.)
2. Read to your child, pointing to the words so that he sees the words in books.
3. Put magnetic letters on the refrigerator or on a metal cookie sheet. Let him make his words.
4. Have your child use glitter glue, puffy paint, markers or playdoh to write the sight words.
5. Put craft sand on a paper plate. Have your child practice tracing sight words in the sand.
6. Squirt shaving cream on a plate or table. Spread the cream. Have your child write the sight words in shaving cream.
7. Put hair gel in a zip lock bag. Have your child write the letters of the sight words in the gel.
8. Write the sight words on sticky notes and place them on a wall. Turn down and the light sand give your child a flashlight. Have your child shine the light on the words and read each word.
9. Jump, hop, clap, or tap out the letter of the sight word (t-h-e the).
10. Have your child use magnetic letters to spell the sight words.
11. Hang a list of the words you are practicing in a place that your child will see every day. Practice reading the words any chance you get.

## Online Resources

- If you have access to an iPad or iPhone, there are sight word apps available such as Spelling City
- On a computer do a search for sight word games. There are many available to create yourself.
- Make a word search with your child's words. Search for a free word search maker.



## Thank You Parents!

Thank you for your continued support! If I can help you in any way, please contact me!

Miss Elizabeth Festa