

Ways to Practice Words at Home

High frequency words (HFWs) are sent home for you to help reinforce sight vocabulary with your child. High frequency words, are commonly used words that young children are encouraged to memorize **as a whole by sight**, so that they can **automatically recognize these words in print within three seconds without having to use any strategies to decode**. High frequency words account for a large percentage (up to 75%) of the words used in texts which are used when children are beginning to read. The advantage for children being able to recognize these words automatically is that a beginning reader will be able to identify the majority of words in a beginning text before they even attempt to read it; therefore, allowing the child to concentrate on meaning and comprehension as they read, without having to stop and decode every single word. Recognizing sight words automatically is also advantageous for beginning readers because many of these words have unusual spelling patterns, cannot be sounded out using basic phonetic knowledge and cannot be represented using pictures.

You may find it useful to stick the words on card and use for the various activities outlined below which can help children recognise and remember them.

Flashcards

See how many words can be read in one minute. Next time, see if that score can be beaten.

Fishing game

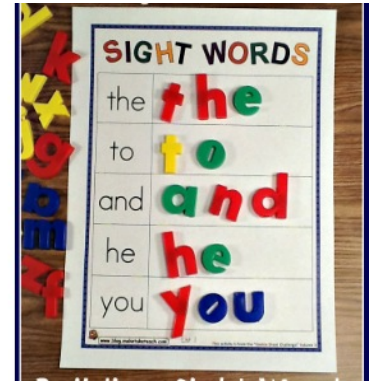
Put 6-8 of the words in a bag and take turns to get a word out. Read the word to get a point. To win two points you have to spell the other persons word that they have just read. Keep going until all the words have been attempted.

Rainbow Words

Write your words using various colours using markers, crayons, gel pens, chalk etc. Say the word as you write it.



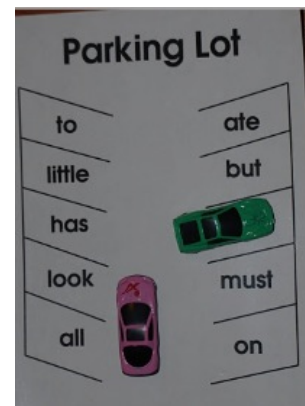
Write words on balls, beanbags etc. Ask child to find and throw you a certain word.



Make words using magnetic letters.



Write words on cups. Hide an object under a cup and let the child see you do this. Ask the child to tell you the word on the cup which has the object hidden under it.



Write words on a sheet of paper inside each "parking space" Ask child to drive a car into a particular space e.g. Can you put the car in the space which says "to" in it?