

20+ Fun Ways to Practice Sight Words at Home

One of the factors that determine grade level success is oral reading fluency. It's extremely important for your child to practice sight words at home daily. Practicing sight words with your child at home will make a big difference and it can also be a fun experience!

Paper Plate Toss: Write sight words on paper plates. Use them like Frisbees to throw after reading the word. Add in some additional fun by adding a target.

Flashlight Words: Turn off the lights. Tape words on the wall or ceiling. Use the flashlight to shine on the word, then have your child read it.

Go Fish: With a duplicate set of word cards play "Go Fish." You can easily make your own cards out of index cards.

Stepping Stones: Place the word cards on the floor, making a fun stream going across the room. Have your child walk over the stream. As they step onto the stepping stone (word), have them say the word before they move on to get to the other side of the stream.

Tic-Tac-Toe: Write words in the tic-tac-toe spaces. Take turns selecting a space to read. If read correctly, an X or O is placed on the space until someone wins.

Word-O: This is played just like BINGO. Fill in a card with the words that you are working on. Call out the words and mark the spaces. The first one with a card covered calls out the word "WORD-O!"

Word Hunt: Look for target words in books or in the newspaper. If using the newspaper your child can highlight or circle the words that she finds.

Word Jump: Write the sight words onto the driveway. Call out a word. Have your child jump their way to the sight word.

SNAP: Write sight words on flash cards or popsicle sticks. Put the words into a jar. Also, you write the word SNAP on a few flash cards and put them in to the jar. The kids can play in partners or in a groups of 3 or 4 with siblings. They take turns pulling a card out of the jar. If they can say the word on the card automatically with no struggle, they get to keep the card. If they struggle, they have to put it back. If they pull out one of the cards that says SNAP, they have to put all of the card they've drawn back. The first person to 5 cards (or 10) wins!

Stair Chase: Place two sight word cards on each stair. Let them pick one sight word on the way up, saying the word and picking up the card when they read it correctly. Have them practice the other sight words on the way down.

Coin Toss: Put words on the floor. Children take turns tossing a coin onto a word and saying the word. If they read the word correctly, they keep the coin. The first person to collect a designated amount of money is the winner.

Concentration: Create two sets of word cards. Place the word cards face down. Have your child turn over two cards, trying to make a match. Continue until all of the words are matched.

Who am I? Lay out the word cards. Then give the child clues to what the selected word is. For example, if the word was "red," you could say – I rhyme with bed. I have three letters. I end with the letter D. Have the child locate the word.

Chalk Writing: Go outside and practice writing the sight words with chalk on the sidewalk.

Beat the Clock: See how many times your child can write a word in one minute. Or see how many flash cards your child can read in one minute.

Who Has More? Flash word cards to your child. If they read the word within 3 seconds, they get to keep the card. If not, you keep the card. If the child has more cards than you at the end, they win.

Write Them Out: Use a wide variety of materials to practice writing sight words such as: Playdough, Stencils, Wiki sticks, Alphabet stamps, Scrabble tiles, Magnetic Letters, Legos, Popsicle Sticks, Salt on a Tray, Sidewalk Chalk, Sticks (in sand or dirt), Peanut Butter, Shaving Cream, Whipped Cream, Finger Paint, etc... the possibilities are endless. Get creative!