

Sight Reading

How to Help Your Child Read Common Words by Sight

When your child reads books, there are some words that he will see over and over again. Some of these common words are *has*, *been*, *write*, and *light*. Teachers call these words Sight Words or High Frequency Words. Because these words appear so often, it is important for your child to recognize and read them. This will help him read more easily and quickly.

You can boost your child's reading skills by helping him learn these common words. Try playing these fun games to help your child learn to read common words by sight.

Can You Find the Word?

Read "Mom's New Bakery and the Bread Loaf Shoes" story with your child. Show your child the word *-on-*. Ask him to look for *-on-* in the story and circle it each time he finds it. Count how many times he found *-on-* in the story. (It appears six times.) If he missed any, have him keep looking until he finds all six.

Pick a new word from the list at the end of the story. Have him look for that word in the story and circle it each time he finds it. Count how many times he found it in the story. Check the common words list to see how many times that word is in the story.

Then have him look for each word on the list and circle it. Now, see if he can read the words that he has circled. If he does not know a word, help him by reading the story again, pointing to each word as you read it. When you have read the story again, have your child read the circled words to you. Continue until he can read the circled words on his own.

Try the same activity with the "Mr. Zillow's Class Solves a Mystery" story using the common words listed with each one.



Concentration Word Pairs

Have your child cut out the Concentration—Word Pairs cards included with this Tip Sheet. Start with only five pairs of words. Turn these ten cards over so your child cannot see the words.

| | |
|--------|--------|
| ask | ask |
| read | read |
| better | better |

Have your child pick two cards and help her read the words on the cards to see if they are the same. If they are the same, your child gets to keep those cards and pick two more. If the words are not the same, she puts them back upside down. Have her pick cards, two at a time, until she has matched all of the cards.

Once your child can read these five words, add a few more pairs of words to the game. Keep adding words until she can read all of them.

You can make more game cards using the Concentration Word Pairs—More Common Words sheet. For more fun, other family members can join this game by taking turns flipping two cards at a time until all of the matching cards have been found.



Common Word Bingo



This Bingo game will help your child learn Common Words. There are 3 Bingo Game Cards with this tip sheet. Right after each Game Card, there is another sheet marked Bingo Words that is the same as the game card. For example, you will see Bingo Game Card #1 followed by Bingo Words #1.

Start with Bingo Game #1. You or your child need to cut out Bingo Words #1 and put them in a hat, bag, or other container. Give your child Bingo Card #1 and explain that you are going to play Bingo. Tell him that you will pick a card from the hat, and he will try to find that word on the Bingo Card. When he gets all 3 words in a row or all 4 words in a column, he can say, "Bingo!"

As you pick a card from the hat, show it to your child as you read the word. Then hand the Word Card to him so that he can put it on the same word on his Bingo Card. Keep going until he gets Bingo. He has won the game! Save the Bingo Card and the Bingo Words for another game later.

You can play Bingo again with Bingo Card #2 and then Bingo Card #3.

Once your child gets good at Bingo, tell him that you are going to play a new Bingo game called Blackout. Use Bingo Card #1 and the Bingo Words that go with it. Tell your child that this time he needs to get all 12 words on his Bingo Card to win.

For a more challenging game, put 24 Bingo Words from two games or all 36 Bingo Words from the 3 Bingo games in the hat. Give your child one Bingo Card. Pick a card from the hat and have your child try to find the word on his Bingo Card. He gets Bingo if he gets all 3 of the words in a row or all 4 words in one column. Remember, the idea is to have fun. So, invite other family members to join the game and play with all 3 cards and all 36 Bingo Words.

Common Word Search

Attached to this Tip Sheet are 2 word searches, one with 4-letter Common Words that she needs to know and the other is with 5-letter Common Words.



Have your child look at the first word and then try to find it in the row of letters that follow. If your child needs help, show her how to find and circle the first word. For example, show her the word **-over-** in the box. Then show her how to find it in the letters that follow. There is only one word hidden in each row of letters. Have her find the word **-cold-** in the next row. See how many words she can find.

If she wants to keep playing, go to the next game sheet with 5-letter common words. If she is tired, play Common Word Search with 5-letter words on another day.

If you and your child enjoy these activities, tell your child's teacher. The teacher may have more ideas to share for learning fun at home. If your child is having a hard time with these activities, you also can talk to your child's teacher. There may be other activities to help.

Watch Families Doing Activities

To watch families doing these activities, please go to: www.schoolsuccesslibrary.com and click on the "Parents" link at the top of the page. Next, click on "Literacy Resources". Then, click on the button that matches your child's age group. Scroll down the page and click on the video that goes with this tip sheet. Other tip sheets and videos are there as well.

