

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 **the**, **a**, **is**, and **to**. 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.

One of the ways that you can boost your child's reading skills is to help him learn these 30 common words.

Games to Play with Children That Help Them Learn to Read Common Words by Sight: There are many fun games you can play with your child to help him learn common words by sight. Here are just a few ideas:



Can You Find the Word?

Read Humpty Dumpty on the Can You Find the Word sheet with your child. Show your child this word — **the**. Ask your child to look for — **the**— in Humpty Dumpty and circle it with a yellow crayon each time he finds it. Count how many times he found —**the**— in the rhyme. (It appears 2 times.) Then have him look for other words and circle them with different colors, such as:

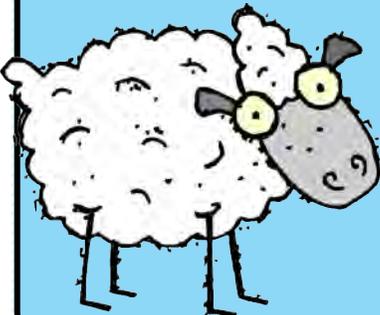
a—circle with a blue crayon (this word appears in 2 places)

on—circle with a red crayon

and—circle with a green crayon

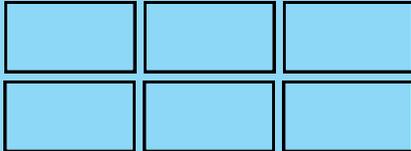
Try the same activity with the other poems and stories on the Can You Find the Word sheet using the common words listed with each one.

When your child has circled the words, help him count how many words he circled. Did he find them all? Now, see if he can read the words that he has circled. If he does not know a word, help him by reading the poem again, pointing to each word as you read it. When you have read the poem again, have your child read the circled words to you. Continue until he can read the circled words on his own.



Concentration—Word Pairs

Have your child cut out the Concentration—Word Pairs cards included with this Tip Sheet. You can help your child cut them out if she needs help. Start with only three pairs of words. Turn these six cards over so your child can not see the words.



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 three words, add another pair of Common Words to the game. Keep adding words until she can read all of them. You also can use the Common Word List to make your own cards and help your child learn to read more words by sight.

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

Included with this Tip Sheet are 3 BINGO cards that each have 9 common words on them. There also are sheets of 9 Common Word Cards that will need to be cut out. Have your child cut out the Word Cards and put them in a hat, bag or other container. Explain to your child that when he gets all 3 words in a row or column, it is called BINGO and he has won the game.

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 he can put it on the word that is the same on his BINGO card. Keep doing this until your child gets BINGO.

Once your child gets good at BINGO, have him get all 9 words on the sheet to win. This is called Blackout.

For a more challenging game, put 18 or all 27 Common Words in the hat and have your child see if the words are on his BINGO card or not. Remember, the idea is to have fun with this activity, so invite other family members to join the game and play with all 3 cards and all 27 words!

When your child is ready for a more advanced game, try this one.

Common Word Search

Attached to this Tip Sheet are 2 word searches, one is all of the 3-letter Common Words that she needs to know and the other is all of the 4-letter Common Words.

Have your child look at the first word and then try to find it in the letters that follow. If your child needs help, show her how to find and circle the first word. For example, show her the word **—you—** 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 **—and—** in the next row. See how many words she can find. Your child is learning while she is having fun!



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.

More Ideas

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.



The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, creed, national origin, veteran status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or gender expression in any program or activity it operates. The University of Nevada employs only United States citizens and aliens lawfully authorized to work in the United States.