



Access the Word

Growing readers.....together

Easy Strategies for Sight Word Practice at Home

Sight Words
or
High Frequency
Words

Does your child struggle to read accurately, smoothly, quickly, and easily? Do you get in battles whenever it's time for your child to read or write? If so, your child is showing characteristics of difficulty with fluency. Other aspects of fluency are expression and phrasing. Improving reading fluency is something that can easily be worked on at home. Do you want to know one skill that will make a big impact on improving reading fluency? Sight word practice! Let me explain why, what words to teach your child and when, as well as strategies to make learning new words fun and effective.

The reason sight word practice can make such an impact on reading fluency is because 50% of all reading texts are made up of the same 100 words! The most frequently used and repeated words in English are called sight words, meaning the reader should recognize them immediately by sight. Words such as *a, so, you, to, that* are examples of sight words. The thing about sight words is that many of them are not spelled the way they sound, and therefore, need to be memorized. We'll look at strategies for teaching and learning those sight words in a minute!

You may also hear terms like instant words, heart words, high frequency words, and irregular words. Technically speaking, here is an explanation of the basic differences between these terms:

- Sight word – any word known well enough that it can be automatically read without conscious effort..... *Follow Sue and receive the entire Sight Word "Cheat Sheet"*