

How to Practice Sight Words



Visit <http://www.camphillsd.k12.pa.us>. Then find sight word resources on Mrs. Carter's web page. Click on "Schools", then "Hoover Elementary K-2" in the drop-down menu. Then click "Teacher Sites" and look for "Carter, Suzanne". Click on "Sight Word Resources" on the left for individual sight word card sets and sight word phrases card sets.

1. **Practice Makes SOOO Much Better!** Use individual sight word cards. Read each sight word card. Remember, sight words should be recognized by SIGHT. "Sounding out" will not always work, and students should be able to read a sight word in 3-5 seconds.

When your child is reading sight word cards, it will help to start with 5-8 words and mix doubles of each word in the stack. Have 20 or less sight words in the stack.

The stack of sight words you practice with your reader should have more known than unknown words to help your child feel success. When your child knows most of the stack, take out the easiest 3-5 words and add 3-5 new cards.

Practice in short sessions. Two short sessions will be less frustrating than one longer session. Five to ten minutes for each session is just fine.

Set goals with your reader. How many sight words can he or she read automatically? Raise the goal by two or three words each practice session.

2. **Can You Find It?** Choose a sight word. As you read a book, find and point to the sight word on each page. Or, use a crayon or highlighter marker to mark the sight words in a magazine or newspaper.

Hide and Seek Lay sight word cards on the table, face up. Ask your student to find a given word. If he or she finds the word, your child can keep it. Keep playing until all cards are picked up. Vary play by having your child ask you to find the given words. (It's also fun to slap the words with a **new, clean** fly swatter!!!!)

3. **My Pile, Your Pile**

Use sight word cards with one word or phrase written on each card. Include a mix of known and unknown sight words. Turn cards over one at a time. If your child can read the sight word quickly, within 3-5 seconds, he or she keeps the card on his or her pile. If not, you keep it on your pile. Naturally, the goal is to have the bigger pile of sight word cards.

4. Pop! (the Friendly Dragon)

Players take turns pulling a word card out of a large envelope or “gift” bag. If the player can read the sight word quickly, he or she keeps the card. If not, all the players say the word together and the card is returned to the bag. If Pop! or his picture card is drawn, the player reads all of his/her sight words aloud and all the cards are returned to the bag. Play for an agreed time or until all the cards are drawn. The winner is the player with the most cards.

Musical Chairs Variation: Remove the Pop! word or picture card. Play until many or all of the cards have been drawn. Move clockwise to another player’s spot and read that player’s sight words. Keep moving to other players’ spots until all the words have been read.

Or, keep the Pop! word or picture card in the bag, and when a player draws it, move around as above until each player reads all the other words. Place the Pop! word or picture card back in the bag and continue playing.

5. Concentration

Play Concentration with pairs of sight words that match. Lay out pairs of word cards in rows with the word side down. Turn two cards over. If they match, keep the cards and take another turn. If the cards do not match, return them to their spots. Variation: Turn some word cards face up and others face down.

6. Go Fish

Use pairs of sight words to make a deck to play Go Fish. Play by the usual rules, but make pairs of sight words.

7. Write your sight words with . . . sidewalk chalk, shaving cream on a table, or with a stick in sand outside.

8. Mixed-Up

Choose sight word cards to practice. Give your child magnetic letters, letter tiles, or letters written on small cards. Ask your child to spell the sight word with the letters and read the word. Use magnetic letters on the refrigerator or on a metal baking sheet.

Variation: Give your child only the letters needed to make the sight word. Can your child unscramble the letters to spell the word?

9. Sight Word Bingo

Make Bingo cards with sight words at <http://print-bingo.com>.

10. Make Sight Word Phrase Picture Cards

Your child can help you make sight word phrase picture cards. Use index cards or other small cards. Write the sight word in a phrase with other known sight words. Your child can draw a picture to complete the phrase.

Share the job of creating these sight word cards. Your child can write some sight words, too. Encourage your child to spell the sight words correctly as he or she writes.

Practice reading the phrases aloud.

Here are some examples:

