

Sparkler writing

Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine that they are writing a word with a sparkler as you spell the word out loud using the letter names. Encourage children to write the letters in the air as they go.

Speed write

Give children 30 seconds to write a word as many times as they can. Each word must be written neatly and correctly.

Build it up

Write a word letter by letter:

t

t h

t h e

Say it as it sounds

Once your child is confident to read the word, have some fun mispronouncing them:

Pronounce **was** as wass instead of woz

Say **when** as w – hen

Say **people** as pee-ople



Learning  Exchange

Helping your
child to read and
spell sight words

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Although we are able to use phonics as a strategy to help us to read and spell the majority of English words, there is a small percentage of words that we cannot use our phonics skills to read and spell. These words, such as **I** and **said**, need to be learned using graphic (or visual memory) strategies and are referred to as **sight words**.

Below are a few suggestions of activities that you can play with your child to help them to read and spell sight words confidently.

Activities to support children to read sight words

Memory pairs

Using duplicate cards containing the focus high frequency sight words, place them face down on a table top in rows. Take it in turns to choose two cards. Turn them face up, encouraging the children to say the word on each card. If they match, take the pair. If they do not match, place them face down in the same place.

Word bingo

Make a set of bingo boards containing a number of high frequency sight words. Note that each bingo board must contain a different configuration of words. Give the children an opportunity to read the words on their bingo board. Call out a word. When a child hears one of their words, they cover it on their bingo board. The winner is the first person to cover their bingo board.

Kim's game

You will need a plain tray, a number of sight word cards and a cloth to cover the items. Make sure the children know the sight words before starting the game. Place the cards on the tray and cover them up. Remove the cover and let the children take a look at the tray for a few seconds (5-10 seconds). Cover the tray again and ask the children to say the sight words that were on the tray. This activity can be made more or less challenging by altering the number of sight words on the tray and the amount of time that children are given to look at them.

Sight word treasure hunt

You will need two identical sets of sight word cards. Make sure that your child can read all the words. Give your child one set of cards and blutack the cards from the second set around the house. Ask your child to go on a treasure hunt around the house, looking for the words that match their set.

Display

Display sight words in a place where your child will spend time looking at them. This could be on the fridge door; near to where your child eats meals or even the back of the toilet door! The more your child looks at the words and talks about them the easier they will find it to recall them.

Activities to support children to spell sight words

What's the 'tricky bit'?

Talk about the difficult bit of the word where the letters do not correspond to the sounds the children know

'In **the** I can hear the /th/ sound but the letter **e** is making a funny /uh/ sound.'