Sight Words

Sight words are words that children need to know by sight. They are words that frequently occur in print and typically **cannot be sounded out**. In order to be a fluent reader, students should be able to read sight words quickly and automatically. **Without this automaticity, students will have a hard time making significant reading progress.** Each week, two sight words with sentences for each word will be sent home. Have your child cut out the words and sentences, place them in a Ziploc storage bag, and **keep them at home**. Please help your child practice his/her words and read the sentences for 5–6 minutes a day. To begin, simply read each word and its sentence and have your child repeat you. When your child feels confident, have him/her read them independently. Linking the word to a sentence helps your child remember the word. A quick assessment will be administered every Friday.

Additional Activities:

* **Word Hunts** - Have your child look for sight words in magazines, books, menus, mailings, catalogs, on signs, license plates, billboards, at stores, restaurants, etc...
* **Memory** - Make a second set of cards on index cards. Require your child to read the cards he/she turns over.
* **My Pile, Your Pile** - Make three to four more cards of each word. Show a card to your child. If he/she reads it correctly, he/she gets the card. If not, read the card to your child and you keep it. At the end of the game, count cards to see who has the most.
* **On the go** - Have a set of cards in the car and practice with your child while standing in line, waiting at a restaurant, etc....
* **Sticky Words** - Write them on sticky notes and place them on the wall next to his/her bed to practice before going to bed or in the morning, on the bathroom mirror to review while getting ready for bed/school, near the kitchen table to read before, during, and after meals, etc....
* **Magnetic Letters** - Purchase magnetic letters and have your child make a word, read it, mix the letters up, make it again, read it again. Repeat 2 or 3 more times.
* **Write It Down** - Have your child write each word on a dry-erase board, chalkboard, MagnaDoodle, etc..., read it, erase it, and repeat 2 or 3 more times.
* **Walking on Words** - Lay the words flat on the floor in a little path. Have your child read each word as they hop to or step on it to follow the path. If you have stairs at home, put a word on each step and have your child say each word as they climb the stairs.
* **What’s Missing** - Lay 3-4 words on the table and have your child read the words, and then close his/her eyes. Remove one of the words. Ask your child to open their eyes and identify the word that was missing. Then take a turn closing your eyes!

Helpful Tips:

* Please **DO NOT** have your child sound each letter in the word, and then attempt to put all the sounds together in an effort to read the word. This is a laborious and inefficient way to learn words. Rather encourage your child to use the first letter of the word to help him/her remember and read it. Link each word to its sentence.
* Be sure to practice sight words regularly to ensure mastery by the end of the week. A student will easily fall behind and become overwhelmed with unknown sight words if he/she does not practice every day.
* Remember to review known sight words occasionally to keep them fresh. Continue practicing unknown sight words along with new ones.