

## *What are sight words?*

Sight words are the words that are most frequently encountered in children's literature. 50% of what the children read is comprised of these sight words. The most common lists of sight words provided by schools are the Fry and Dolch lists.

## *Why should my child learn these words?*

Children are asked to learn these words by sight because they cannot be sounded out due to exceptions to phonetic rules. They need to simply be learned by sight. Hence the term "sight words." Many sight words are "service" words. There is no "picture" to go with them. Words like "and" and "to" are examples of these kinds of words. Learning these words helps children become fluent readers and also aids in comprehension.

## Easy Ideas to Practice Sight Words At Home

- Who's The Boss

Write 6-12 sight words that you want to practice on a piece of paper or index card. Parent is the boss. They tell the child which word to pick-up. Then switch roles. Now the child is the boss and they tell the parent which word to pick-up.

- Word-Wac-Woe –

\*Each player needs a Word-Wac-Woe board. You can either place it in a plastic sleeve protector and use dry erase markers or you can simply print them on paper and use pencil, pen or marker.

\***sight words** you want to review on individual cards (index cards work just as well for this!)

### How to Play:

1. Pick 15-20 sight word cards

2. Lay them out so both people can see them. Read over the words quickly to make sure the student knows/remembers them.
3. Both players write 9 words from the list on their **Word-Wac-Woe boards**. *It's okay if both players write a few of the same words.*
4. When players' boards are filled in, mix up the sight word cards and place them face-down.
5. Players take turns flipping over the top sight word card and reading it out loud.
6. Both players look for the word on their boards and cross it off if they have it.
7. The first player to cross off all his words, wins! *You could also play until the first player gets 4 corners or 3 in a row.*

- Sight Word Bowling –

**How to Play:**

1. Write target words onto slips of paper or post-it notes and tape onto bowling pins with clear tape. I put 4 words on each pin so that there is always a word visible when the pin falls down.
2. Set up pins as you normally would for bowling.
3. Let child throw bowling ball to knock pins down.
4. Before picking bowling again (or setting up the pins for the next round), the child must read each word that is visible on the pins that were knocked down.
5. Repeat as long as child is interested and wants to play.

- **Flashlight –**

Go in the room where you have your word wall hanging. Grab a flashlight on the way and turn out the lights. Have your son shine the light on each word and read them aloud.

- **Roll & Write Sight Words –**

**Materials:**

- 2 players
- 2 dice
- 1 paper & pencil per player (You can use dry erase boards and markers to save on the paper)

**Here's how you play:**

1. **The goal of the game is to be the first player to write & read 10 sight words on your paper.**
2. Players take turns rolling the 2 dice. Each player must add up their own sums and players figure out which person rolled the highest number.
3. Whichever player rolled the highest sum gets to write one (1) word from the word wall. (If both players roll the same sum, both players roll the dice again.)
4. Players continue in this manner, with the highest summed player writing one word until one player get to 10 words. That player is declared the winner.\*

\*Winners must be able to **READ** their words to their partner in order to win the game. It doesn't do any good to have 10 words written that **the player** can't read!

- **Tic-Tac-Toe –**

Draw a large Tic-Tac Toe board on a piece of paper. Each player chooses one sight word instead of an "x" or an "o". Player One then writes his sight word in one of the spaces. Player Two then writes his word in another space. Continue

as such until someone gets three in a row or it is a tie game. Play again with two new words.

- **Sight Word Beach Ball –**

Use a large beach ball and write the sight words around the ball with a permanent marker. Be sure the words are spaced apart. Player One tosses the ball to Player Two who reads the word that is under his right thumb (or left thumb or other specified digit- great for practicing left and right too!) Repeat and have fun!

- **Sight Word Race Track –**

Arrange 6 or 7 of the sight word cards as if it were a road (see picture below). Choose a race car from your home collection. Player One then drives the cars over the words while reading each one as it passes over. If a word is read incorrectly, read it the right way and have the player repeat it and then either move the word to the end of the race track or put it back in the pile for a later turn. Repeat until all words have been practiced.

- **Traditional Games –**

Go Fish, Old Maid, Memory, Scrabble

- **Game Board –**

Use game boards like Candy Land, Chutes & Ladders. Child has to read a sight word before they can move.