

# How to help your Child Learn Sight Words

Sight words are the most commonly used words in the English language. In fact, approximately half the words you encounter in day-to-day reading are sight words. Sight words can help a child build fluency in reading. Sight words can be easily learned by using repetition, introducing sight words using books, connecting sight words to writing, keeping the learning hands on, and celebrating when words are known.

## **1. Provide opportunities for repetition when learning sight words.**

Provide a collection of sight words for your child to re-read. You can simply write the words on index cards and put on a ring clip. Children can re read the words each day. Have your child work for a quick visual recognition of the words. Start by collecting the ones your child knows and introduce one or two new words at a time.

## **2. Introduce new sight words in books that you read.**

Sight word tests often ask children to read a list of words. It is also important, however, that children can recognize sight words when they appear in books. Offer your child books with simple repetitive text that use a few key sight words. You can make your own books with texts like, "I can jump. I can run. I can walk." Scan the QR code for sight word reader book ideas.

## **3. Practice sight words in writing as well as reading.**

We often think of reading sight words, but writing sight words can be very effective in learning. When a child writes a word, he/she slows down the process and is forced to look closely at every letter in the word. When your child is writing and comes to a sight word he/she knows, expect your child to spell that word correctly. Practice writing sight words on a dry erase board. Challenge your child to write the word quickly.

## **4. Make learning sight words hands on and fun.**

There are so many fun ways to learn sight words. You can write them in different colors. You can sing songs to learn sight words. You can play games like twister or hopscotch and insert your sight words. You can use sight words to solve clues in a scavenger. Scan the QR code to find more hands on ideas on Pinterest.

## **5. Celebrate the sight words your child can read independently.**

Create a display in your house of sight words your child knows. A train theme or caterpillar theme can be great for adding on new words. Challenge your child to see how long the caterpillar or train will be when all the words are added.

Another sight word display could be created with popcorn. Teachers often call sight words "popcorn words" because they pop up so frequently in reading. Scan the QR code for a free popcorn sight word display.

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