

High Frequency Words - Games and Activities



High frequency words or keywords are those words that children meet on a regular basis as they read and write. It is important that children recognise them on sight for pace and accuracy of reading, and that they learn to spell them for ease of writing.

The following activities are designed to develop children's ability to read high frequency words. These activities should be fun, play based and used in quick bursts with the children to maintain their interest.

Activities to develop sight recognition

Matching activities

- Select words from a story that you are reading at home. Write them out on large cards. When the words are read, the child holds up their word if it matches.
- Spread some words out on the floor (focus on the words your child is working on). Child takes a word from a duplicate pile and finds the matching word.

Reading activities

Put the words on large pieces of card in the shape of stepping stones or 'splats'.

Your child can:

- ⇒ jump on/over in response to an instruction - "Jump on **my**", "Jump over **like**";
- ⇒ choose a word to jump on and shout it out/child chooses a word for someone else to jump on;
- ⇒ throw an object onto a word and call it out;
- Pelmanism - spread two of each word face down. Child turns two words over to try and find a pair. They have to read both words each time. When they make a pair they keep the cards. This could also be adapted to focus on rhyming words.
- Bingo - Make some bingo cards focusing on certain keywords. Say a word to your child and they have to find it, read it and mark it e.g. with a counter or if laminated a cross. Who will be the first one to say Bingo? Can your child beat you?
- Learning journey - display high frequency words at child-level along routes which they will frequently take (e.g. around their bedroom, on the way to the toilet!). Change them as they learn new ones. Can you spot which words have changed?
- Hunt the keywords - can the chd spot keywords hiding in a book or even inside other words?

I hope that you and your child enjoy playing these games together and that it makes supporting your child with learning their keywords more fun for all involved. If you need any further explanation or think of a brilliant idea to add to the above then please come and have a chat with me.

Thanks Mrs Todd ☺