

Sight Word Games

1. Jump On It!

Make a second set of sight word cards. Scatter one set face up on the floor, leaving about a foot between each card. Place the other set in a stack face down. Turn over the first card in the stack. Have your child read the word (offer help as needed) and then jump on the corresponding card on the floor. Turn over the next card and have your child read it and jump to that word. Continue until your child has jumped on all of the words. Mix the cards up and play again!

*This game is also good for wearing out children with lots of energy! ☺

2. Which Word Wins?

Sit with your child and look at a newspaper to see just how often sight words pop up in print. Ask your child to choose a sight word from the list and an article from the paper. Look for the word together. Highlight and count the word each time it appears. Try the same thing with the second sight word. Which word appears more often?

3. Rainbow letters

Turn sight words into rainbows! Ask your child to write a sight word on paper in big letters. Using different colored crayons or markers, your child can trace around the word again and again, reading the word each time.

4. In the Cupboard

Open a cupboard and take turns with your child, finding and reading sight words. Keep going until you run out of time, words, or things in the cupboard.

5. Read My Back!

“Write” a sight word on your child’s back. Can your child guess the word? Trace places- let your child trace a word on your back. Continue taking turns tracing and guessing sight words.

6. Spill a Sight Word

Place sight word cards into an empty container. Invite your child to shake the container, spill out the words, and read the ones that fall face up. Give each word your child reads a score that is equal to the number of letters in the word. Record the total, then place the remaining cards back in the container, shake, and spill again. Add the total to the first score. Play until your child has spilled and read all of the words. *Keep separate scores for more than 1 player

7. I'm Thinking Of...

One player starts by giving a clue about one of the sight words- for example, “I’m thinking of a word that starts like *horse* and has 3 letters.” The other player looks at the cards and tries to identify the word.

8. Sight Word Soup

Write sight words on large noodles. Rigatoni works well. Use permanent marker. Fill a pot with the noodles. Provide a plastic ladle and 1 bowl per player. Invite your child to visit the sight word soup pot and scoop a bowl of noodles for you (or another player). Let them read the words on their noodles aloud.

9. Sight Word Bingo

Print some blank Bingo cards from the internet. Write your child’s sight words on the cards. Provide child with beans or other objects to fill in their board. Choose a sight word, show it to your child, read it/have them read it. If they have the word on their card, they put a marker on the space. Play until your child gets 5 across, down, or diagonally. Start a new game.

10. Buzz!

Shuffle the sight word cards and the “Buzz!” cards enclosed with your child’s sight words. Flash the first word- if it’s a sight word, have child read it. If it says “Buzz!” everyone says the word, then jump up and buzz about. Gather your bee(s) back together by saying “Back to the hive!” Continue with the next card.

11. Beads for Words

Choose a sight word card for the day. As you read to your child, or as she reads independently, she looks for the daily word. Every time she finds the word, she gets a bead (buy a large sack of beads at the discount store). She can place her beads in a collection jar or box. At the end of the week, let her use her beads to 'buy' a treat or a special privilege.

12. Dry Erase Sight Words

A small, inexpensive dry erase board is a good, versatile investment for use in practicing sight words at home. Write sentences on the board, leaving out a sight word and your child fill in the missing word. Dictate sight words to your child and have them write the word on the dry erase board. Write your child to make as many sight words with them as they can.

13. Letter Tiles

Make alphabet letter tiles by writing letters on small cardstock squares. Ask your child to form sight words with letter tiles. Mix three or four letter tiles and ask children what word the letters spell when rearranged. Have children spell as many sight words as possible with the scrambled letter tiles. Spell out sight words, but omit a letter of the sight word. Have your child fill in the missing letter.

14. Sight Word Hide & Seek

Play a game of sight word hide and seek by placing enough letters in a plastic Easter egg to spell a sight word. This is a fun way to have a home school scavenger hunt. Send children searching for the eggs and ask them to spell a sight word with the letter tiles when they are found. There are many variations you can create with this: hide cards with sight words on them, hide letters individually & have your child put them together to make a word you tell them they're looking for, etc.

15. Sight Words Race

Use a timer that will buzz or ring and set it for 1, 2, or 3 minutes and hold up the flash cards one at a time. As soon as your child reads the card, flip up another one. If they can't read it fast, have them say pass and put it to the side. Count how many they've read at the sound of the buzzer and this can be their 'score.' You can keep their score somewhere and let them reward themselves each time they beat their personal best.

16. Sight Word Sentences

Get out a stack of sight word cards and have your child choose anywhere from three to five cards and ask them to use each word they've chosen in a sentence. They do not have to use all the words in a sentence, but as they get better and better, have them choose two words at a time to be used in a sentence. You can have as much fun with this game as you want including asking them for certain types of sentences including rhyming ones.

17. Sight Word Train

Place the sight words in a line on the table and have your child read the words in order, if they mispronounce a word, have them start again at the beginning. They repeat these trains of words until they go all the way through and say each one correctly. This game can be a little tricky, but have a reward waiting for them at the end of the line and it will encourage them to practice their words.

18. POW!

Mix up the cards and put them all in the can. Each person playing picks a card and reads it out loud. If s/he is correct s/he can keep the card, and it is the next person's turn. The object is to have the most cards at the end of the game. Write "POW" on some cards. When a player chooses "POW!" s/he has to read "POW!" in a loud voice and put ALL of their cards back in the can. A player may have to lose their turn or take another turn if s/he pulls one of those cards. There will be lots of laughing and anybody can win, not just the best reader, because of the element of chance in the game. The game ends when all cards are gone.