

Buzz Word---Ways to Practice #3

Did you know...

- 13 words account for approximately 25% of all words in school texts. (Johns, 1997): a, and, for, he, in, is, it, of, that, the, to, was, you;
- 109 words account for 50% of the words in school texts (Adams, 1990);
- the first 300 instant words make up about 65 percent of all written material (Fry, 1993).

These words are referred to as “sight words,” “high frequency words,” or “instant words.” Students will encounter these words more frequently than any other words in print and, for this reason, they need to recognize them on sight, and need to read them without hesitation.

Try some of the activities below for some fun ways to play with sight words! Keep this list handy to add fun and variety to your child’s sight word practice.

Jump on It!

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Copy sight words on index cards, (one word per card). Use your Buzz Words as a second set of the same words. Scatter one set faceup on the floor, leaving about a foot between each card. Place the other set in a stack facedown. 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 up the cards and play again!

Spill and Spell

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Use your Buzz Words. (or write your words on index cards or sturdy paper.) Place the word cards in an empty container, such as a tall plastic cup or an empty tennis ball can. Invite your child to shake the container, spill out the words, and read the ones that fall faceup. Give each word your child reads a score that is equal to the number of letters in the word. Record the total, and spill again. Add the total to the first score. Play until your child has spilled and read all of the words.

Power Point Presentation & Online Games

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Make a power point presentation on the computer! Use one sight word on each slide. You can even have your child type the words. Click and read as many times as you’d like to practice!

Use this internet link, http://www.familylearning.org.uk/sight_word_games.html for a variety of fun sight word games.