

Buzz Word---Ways to Practice #6

Reading is all about constructing meaning from text. The meaning is constructed by what readers bring to the text, as well as what they learn from the text. That meaning is dependent upon the rapid, automatic, and effortless recognition of words. The easier it is for your child to recognize sight words, the easier it is for them to create meaning from what they read!

Try the activities below to support your child as he/she increases their sight word vocabulary. Keep this list handy to add fun and variety to your child's sight word practice.

Repeated Readings

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Repeated readings of familiar books, including guided reading books, poetry notebooks, library books, bedtime stories, and Raz-Kid stories are great ways to help practice sight words in real text.

Flashlight Reading

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Flashlight reading—put some words on post-it notes on the ceiling or wall next to your child's bed. At bedtime...or any convenient time, give your child a flashlight and ask him/her to shine the light on the word _____. Another fun way to play is to simply shine the light on a word and ask your child to read it! Repeat for each word. Go fast, go slow...make it fun. Switch who shines the flashlight and who reads the words! Feel free to make some mistakes as you read---kids love to correct their *silly* parents.

Words of the Week

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Choose a few new words to practice for the week. Use a post-it or index card and place a new word on the bathroom mirror, bedroom door, by the refrigerator, TV/Computer, other commonly visited space. Your child can say the word over and over while brushing teeth or eating breakfast, before watching TV, entering the room, etc.

Snowball Fight

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Cut out snowflakes, choose some sight words to practice and write them on the snowflakes. Tape the snowflakes to a wall, couch, or other area **away from valuable, breakable objects**. Using balled up white socks for snowballs, take turns reading one of the words and then throwing the snowball at the word. Make a scorecard and score one point for each word correctly read and hit.