

## Supporting reading and spelling of sight words

When teaching reading and spelling much of the focus is on phonics. However children will need to recognise whole words that cannot be sounded out easily and those that they come across frequently. These are known as tricky words or high frequency words. (There is a list included in this area of the website) You may want to focus on the words in your child's reading book or words that you know that they struggle to read or spell. When learning several of these words at a time it is useful to select words that do not look similar as this will prevent confusion.

Here are some activities to support children's whole word recognition skills.

Tracing over or writing on textured surfaces	Matching key words or spellings
Tracing over or writing words on textured surfaces with your finger is helpful.	
Sand	Write in lower case, a number of words (about 5 words, including each word twice) on slips of paper and ask your child to read and match the pairs of words. You could do this as a game, against the clock and see how quickly they can complete the exercise. These can be used to play 'snap' or 'pairs'.
Fly Swat Game	Matching tricky words
Read out one word at a time and then your child attempts to swat/slap their hand down on the correct word.	Before you read with your child, look through their book and identify a few words (no more than three at a time) that they might find tricky to read. These might be words that they regularly read incorrectly, or it might be new or unusual words. Write these words on a slip of paper. Prepare to start reading the book with your child. Before they start to read, ask your child to match the word to the words on the page. This means that they have already identified and practiced these words before they start reading. Praise and congratulate success.
Matching words with the same letter	Constructing words
Write a series of focus words on slips of paper. Read each of the words with your child. Put them out so that your child can see all the words, then ask them to find all the words that begin with the same letter or end with the same letter. Each time they find a word, encourage them to read it. Alternatively, ask them to find all the word that contain a particular letter. Lots of praise for identifying the letter correctly always helps.	Making up words using play dough, similar or other materials.

Word searches	Word Detectives
There are lots of word searches available online or you can use an online programme such as <u>https://thewordsearch.com/maker</u> to design a word search containing the words you want your child to focus on. <b>Word shapes and patte</b>	Give your child a key word on a piece of paper and then ask them to see how many different times they can find it round the house. Think food packets, books, magazines, writing on mugs and bags etc.
When children are learning to read or spell new words, it is good to focus them on the word shape and the pattern of letters in words. Focus on the shape of the word looking for the ascenders (letters going up) and descenders (letters going down) and how many letters there are in the word as in the example below. Your child could trace around the outline of a word. Then ask your child to match the words to their shapes. Sheets like this can be easily drawn or there are lots of examples online such as <u>https://www.enchantedlearning.com/alphabet/boxshapes/</u> It is helpful for children to draw these independently. This is a good way of practicing spellings.	has had
Coloured writing	
Ask your child to write the words that they are practicing for spelling using different colours for consonants and vowels. They can also use a different colour to highlight a focus sound in a word or spelling rule. Or they can write tricky spellings in a spelling scribble.	Spelling Scribble