

# Learning together

## Recognizing Sight Words

### ACTIVITY #2

SEQUENCE: DEVELOPING READING FLUENCY –  
RECOGNIZING SIGHT WORDS – PRIMARY

**By Caroline Côté,**  
Primary School Educational Specialist



### Purpose of the activity

The objective of this capsule is to suggest different activities that you can do with your child to get them to quickly recognize sight words when reading.



### Relevance of the activity

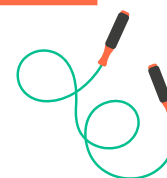
“Sight words,” or “function words,” are terms referring to words that are frequently found in texts, and that you should immediately recognize when you see them.

[Did you know that some of them make up about 50% of the texts we read?](#) By quickly recognizing these words, your child will be less overloaded, and will therefore be able to devote more energy to decoding words that are less familiar to them. As a result, they will better understand what they are reading.



### Supplies

- Chalk/erasable board
- Balloons, jump rope or other sporting goods
- Fly swatter, laser, Nerf gun, or hands



## À VOUS DE JOUER AVEC VOTRE ENFANT!

### Explain the activity:



Get your child to develop reading fluency and recognize sight words.

### Explain why:

Reading is an activity that can require a lot of energy, especially at the beginning when a child is still learning grapheme-phoneme correspondences, or the connection between letters and sounds.



As with sports or any other activity, the more you exercise, the better you become. This principle also applies to reading. The more we read, the more we encounter the words, and the more they end up being recorded in the child's spelling lexicon or, in other words, in their repertoire of the words they know.

### Explain when:



It is important to have numerous opportunities to encounter these sight words.

### Try it together:

 Here are some:

#### 1. Word wall:

Do you have a fly swatter, small lasers or the very popular Nerf rifles? Place a few words on a wall. Say a word, and your child must find it by touching it or pointing to it. Don't have these objects? They can then simply point it out.

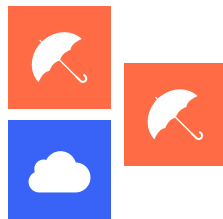
#### 2. Words in action:

It has already been proven: practice helps learning. Take advantage of the opportunity! Write sight words on an erasable board, and have your child read them while they jump on their trampoline or use their jump rope. Have them read 5 words, and if they are read correctly, then they have a chance to outsmart you in front of the soccer net. Write the words on the ground with chalk and ask them to jump from word to word while reading them or to bounce a basketball off them.

#### 3. Board games:

Board games can also be used when you want to work on sight words with your child. Do you have a game like "snakes and ladders" or dice and game pieces? Draw a pathway on a sheet or use a game board. When your child correctly recognizes a sight word, they can then advance on the game by rolling the dice.

And why not a little bit of *Tic Tac Toe*, *Memory Game*, or *Bingo*? It's fast and fun!



14  
60

#### BINGO

14	21	39	54	73
11	24	38	49	62
2	18	★	57	67
9	19	41	60	68
5	25	42	47	74

57

### Quick tip

Make it fun by inventing sentences, messages or daily riddles, or slip notes in your child's lunch box containing sight words. This optimizes knowledge transfer because your child will see the words in a real-world context.

Another quick tip:

Use Ziploc bags. One bag is labelled "known words" and the other is labelled "words to work on." When your child is able to recognize a word quickly, repeatedly and in different contexts, it can be categorized as a "known word."



## List of frequent words that make up 50% of the texts read (Giasson, 2011)

the	on	we	out
be*	with	say*	if
to	he, she	or	about
of	as	will	who
and	you	my	get*
a, an	do*	one	which
in	at	all	go*
that	this	would	me
have*	but	there	when
I	his, her	their	make*
it	by	what	can
for	from	so	like*
not	they	up	no

\* includes the conjugated verb forms

## List of irregular sight words (site ROLÉ, liste orthographique MELS 2014—Official Spelling List, Quebec Ministry of Education, 2014)

nice	comb	great	use
cup	tickle	baby	bed
kite	quiet	eight	fox
duck	calf	time	saw
tough	measure	pie	call
sit	reach	cry	gym
pass	wrap	right	fur
science	make	boat	breath
nose	rain	toe	cat
zoo	play	open	flood