

# Sight Vocabulary Activities

*Big, at, can, does, go, see:* these are just a few of what are commonly referred to as sight words. Sight words are those foundational words that appear frequently wherever you see words in print. Children should recognise sight words without sounding out the letters to build reading speed and fluency.

In Year R, children are expected to read words linked to the level of their phonics learning. These words include: *I, to, the, no, go, into, he, she, we, me, be, you, are, her, was, all, they, my* as well as *it, is, in, if, at, as, an, can, mum, dad, big, on, up, got, not, get, and, had, him.*

In Year 1 and Year 2, children need to be able to read (and spell) a selection of words by the end of each year; these include Common Exception Words and words linked to their phonics learning. The Common Exception words linked to your child's year group can be found in the front of your home learning book. The words linked to their phonics learning include: *said, have, like, some, come, little, one, were, there, what, when, out, oh, Mrs, Mr, people, their, called, looked, asked, could.*

Sight words are unique. Many of them can't be figured out phonetically, and they are often an exception to the rules of letter-sound relationships. The best way to learn these words is through familiarity and memorization. This does not mean, however, that you have to sit with your child and use boring and basic flashcards. The best way children learn is by engaging in playful activities. Active learning will not only help your child retain the sight words, but will also develop skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, innovation, self-regulation, and working memory.

Try these fun active learning games to help your child learn sight words and more!

## 1. Egg Hunt

You'll need paper (cut into strips), markers, and plastic eggs you can open. Write a sight word on each of the paper strips and place one strip in each egg. Hide the eggs all around your garden or living room. Have a fun egg hunt with your child. Record one point for each egg found and two points if your child can read the sight word. How many points did your child get? Play again and see if they can get more points the next time.

## 2. Sight Word Smash-Up

You will need a few beanbags, index cards, and a marker. Write a sight word on each card. Spread the word cards on the floor. Shout out words and have your child toss beanbags onto them. Next, have your child shout out the word and see if you can hit them with the beanbags.

## 3. Sight Word Bingo

Make a grid (adjust the size depending on your child's abilities), and write a sight word in each square. Next, give your child some counters and read one of the words out loud. If your child can find the correct word, they get to place a counter in the square. When they have completed a row or a column, they have won the game - bingo!

## 4. Word Walk

You will need white paper plates and a marker. Write a sight word on each of the plates. Create a path all around the house using the

paper plates. Start at the beginning of the path and have your child read each word as they walk to the end of the path. Your child can pick up the plate each time they read a word. Repeat the game by creating a new path.

## 5. Spot the Word

Write 20 sight words on 20 pieces of paper. Use words you want your child to learn. Stick the words on a wall. Get a flashlight and dim the lights. Shine the light on a word. Ask your child to read the word. Switch it up by reading a word and having your child find it with the flashlight. Make the activity even more fun using black paper and a glow-in-the-dark crayon or marker.

## 6. Puzzling Words

Children love puzzles! Take a 20 to 100-piece puzzle, depending on the size of puzzle your child can handle, and write a sight word on the back of each piece. Have your child pick up a piece and read the word before putting it in the puzzle. If they struggle with the word, read it to them and put the piece aside for them to come back to and try again.

## 7. Catch the Word

Start with 10 small balls. Tape a sight word on each ball. Play a simple game of catch, and each time your child catches a ball, they will read the word aloud. Repeat with the other balls and keep the action going.

I	to	the
no	go	into
he	she	we
me	be	you
are	her	was
all	they	my

it	is	in
if	at	as
an	can	Mum
Dad	big	on
up	got	not
get	and	had
him		

said	have	like
some	come	little
one	were	there
what	when	out
oh	Mrs	Mr
people	their	called
looked	asked	could