

Sight vocabulary refers to the list of words a reader recognises immediately without having to use word identification strategies. Recognition implies that readers can pronounce and understand the meaning of a word in the context in which it is used.

To support a student struggling with sight words (affecting the fluency of their reading), the student will need to repeatedly see and read words that they will need to know without sounding out. You could use the *Oxford Word List* attached, or a class list of spelling words (*Sound Waves* or similar). You should display these words somewhere in your house where your child will see them frequently. Each day, try getting them to read them. Some words can be easily sounded out, whilst others can't and just need to be recognised - you can talk to your child about this as a strategy for working words out. However, all common words will eventually need to be immediately recognised by your child.

Here are a few ways to help.

- Oxford Word list – see additional page of listed words
- Word Walls can provide a space for recording any new words students are learning or have recently learnt. Write sight words onto paper or card and place them on a wall for your child to read aloud each day. You will need to support them in helping them see the patterns in the words initially.
- Printable sight words flash cards. You can use these to get your child to read words quickly as you show them each card. You can even time them to see how quickly they can read the words and compare to previous attempts.  
[http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/detresources/flash\\_cards\\_GydsyYQNAo.pdf](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/detresources/flash_cards_GydsyYQNAo.pdf).
- Sight Word Bingo. Place the words that they are working on into a bingo grid. Ensure you repeat some of the words so that your child will have to find multiple copies of the word when you play the game. As you call the words out, get your child to place a counter/marker on each word and call out bingo when they have completed the grid or made a row with their markers. This is best played with more than one player – you could join them.
- Memory. Place sight word cards face down. Flip one over, say the words. Turn it back and flip another over. If it matches, say the words and keep both cards. Continue until all cards are gone. You can play this with a partner and the winner is the one with the most cards at the end.
- Random timed reading of words. Using a Bingo grid, add sight words randomly (can also be repeated) on the page. Time your child to see how quickly they can read all the words. Do this for about a week or until the child is able to automatically read the words. If they are stuck on one or two, add these to the next lot of words to focus on.
- Repeated Reading – see additional page explaining this very useful strategy.

*Note many of these ideas come from First Steps: Reading Resource Book*

Please see websites listed below to give further ideas for games to play to reinforce sight words:

<http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/apps/education/docs/sight-word-activities.pdf>

<http://childhood101.com/2013/09/sight-words-activity-ideas/>

<http://blog.maketaketeach.com/teaching-sight-words/>

<http://search.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/s/search.html?query=sight+words&profile=schoolatoz&collection=nsw-det>