

Top Tips on building sight word skills

Find out which words your child is getting stuck reading from a reading book

(Google the first 100 most commonly used words in English)

Choose 10 words to play with, 5 your child already knows and 5 new ones

Cut 2 A4 pieces of paper/card into 20 pieces and write one word on each

Do not use block capitals use lower and upper case letters

You will now have two sets of words

- **Play snap;** mix up the word cards, deal them out, take turns laying them down, shouting 'snap' when a pair is laid down on top. The player who 'snaps' wins those cards. The winner is whoever has the most cards at the end of the game
- **Play pairs;** lay the cards face down, take turns to turn 2 cards, if they match that player keeps the pair, if they do not match the cards are turned face down again for the next player's turn. The winner is whoever has the most pairs at the end of the game
- **Play hidden words;** lay the cards out face up, player 1 close your eyes, player 2 removes one word, player 1 opens their eyes and aims to say the missing word. If successful they get a counter/1p coin. The winner is whoever has the most counters at the end of the game
- **Play Track games;** Put a number top right on each card; 1 to 4, put the cards face down. Use a track game such as snakes and ladders but rather than using a dice, the players have to take turns to read the word to move the number of places written in the top right of the word card.
- **Play Connect 4;** to be able to put a counter down, the player must be able to read the word from the word card
- **Play Bingo;** Draw a grid of 6 on two pieces of paper/card, write some of the sight words, 1 into each box, each player gets a grid card. Put word cards in a central pile face down and take turns to turn the top card. If the player has it on their grid they can lay it down. The winner is the first to fill their grid.
- **Play Hunt the word;** player 1 closes their eyes, player 2 hides a word card around the room. Player 1 opens their eyes and looks for the card, player 2 can give guidance saying 'hotter/colder'
- **Outside shape;** Make two sets of cards, one with the word written and one with just an outline of the whole word shape, like bubble writing. These cards can then be used to play the above games again.
- **Trace words;** Write one of the words about 6cm tall in joined up/cursive writing and ask your child to trace over the word in a few different felt tip colours. If you can encourage them to say the word over and over as they trace that is great.

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Service Operational Managers: Alison Woodburn and Katie Roscoe

Postal Address: Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1AH

T: 0151 233 5988 E: seniss@liverpool.gov.uk



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