

Learning Common Words at Home

<i>the</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>a</i>
<i>was</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>my</i>	<i>we</i>	<i>in</i>

Common words are words that we use a lot as readers and writers. We see these words often as we read and use them all the time in our writing. Learning to read these words automatically, without the need for decoding, really helps children's confidence and fluency as readers.

To develop instant recall and the ability to read these words as 'sight words' requires lots of repetition and practise. A good idea is to focus on the words one set at a time. So starting with words 1-10 (yellow set) practise and play games with those words, until your child can read them fairly easily, before progressing to the next set of Common Words. As part of your child's Home Learning we recommend that you spend 5-15 minutes 3-4 times a week learning these Common Words.

Reading Common Words

Below are some suggestions for ways you can help your child to learn the common words.

Word Detective: When reading with your child, ask them to find the common words in the text. They might even like to write down the words they find.

Tic Tac Toe: Spread the Common Words face down on the floor. Chant the rhyme, "*Tic Tac Toe, here I go, where I stop I do not know*". The child uses a 'magic wand' or their finger to tap each card as the chant is recited. The card the child lands on is turned over and read.

Memory: Turn 2 sets of cards face down. Take it in turns to turn cards over 2 at a time. Read the card you've turned over. If the words match, player keeps the pair. If not, the cards are turned face down in the same position. The next player has a turn, trying to remember where the pairs are. The player with the most pairs wins.

Steps to the Throne: Place cards in a line. Player has to step on (or beside) each Common Word and read it. Progress through the cards and reach the throne/chair/crown, etc.

Hot Potato: Spread cards out facing up. Quickly say a random Common Word and your child repeats the word as they find and point to it as fast as they can. Alternatively, practise reading the Common Words as flash cards.

Common Word Match: Using 2 sets of Common Word cards, ask your child to match the sets up, so that each Common Word is with its partner. Ask your child to read each as they match it. Or you could ask your child to find and match a certain Common Word; for example, "Find the word 'went' and match it to its partner."

Snap: Take turns turning Common Word cards over and adding to the pile. 'Snap' when the same word appears in succession.