

# Top 10 Ways to Help Children Learn Sight Words

1. Start with the “iddy biddy words” like “is,” “at,” “to”- in other words, all the two-letter words from the pre-primer and primer word lists.
2. Write each word out onto an index card (you may purchase a metal ring to attach the index cards so that they stay together in one bundle)
3. Never teach more than 2 or 3 new words at a time.
4. When teaching new words:
  - Show the word and say it to the child- “This word is \_\_\_\_\_.” Ask the child, “What word is this?”
  - Say, “It begins with \_\_\_ and ends with \_\_\_\_\_. It is spelled \_\_\_\_\_”
  - Repeat the word.
  - Ask the child, “What word is this?”
  - Repeat the steps for the next new word
  - Now go back to the first word and have the child say the word and spell the word.
  - Go to 2<sup>nd</sup> word and have child say it and spell it.
  - Introduce 3<sup>rd</sup> new word or go back and review old words,
5. Keep practice time fun and short- 5-10 minutes at a time
6. Practice throughout the day- at breakfast, during homework time, and/or right before bed.
7. Have your child look for sight words when reading to him/her. Look for them on restaurant menus, on road signs, and anywhere else you see print.
8. Spend lots of time reviewing words. A child typically needs to see a word 12-14 times before they have it memorized.
  - Slap it!- Lay out the words on a firm surface, give your child a fly swatter, call out a word and have them “slap” the correct word
  - I Spy- I spy with my little eye a word that starts with the letter w and ends with an “s”. What word is it? (was!)
9. Treat learning new words as a fun and beneficial activity. Your child’s attitude towards learning will be a direct reflection of your own 😊
10. Encourage and Praise your child often. Reward them with extra time with you, play time, and lots of hugs!

Example:

This word is “was.”

What word is this?

It begins with a “w” and ends with an “s”. It is spelled “w-a-s, was.”

What word is this?