

WORD RECOGNITION (SIGHT WORDS)

Word recognition is an essential skill that supports children as both writers and readers. Sight words are high-frequency words that students should memorize and know when they see them. In her book, *Your Child's Writing Life*, Pam Allyn writes that “phonemic awareness is liberating.” Phonemic awareness allows students to delve deeply into content, meaning and understanding without focusing too heavily on specific spelling. Phonemic awareness and sight word recognition allow students to make word choices that are driven by meaning and appropriateness, rather than spelling or word familiarity.

One of the most important ways to improve word recognition is to encourage our students to read, and for us to read to them often. As they read and write widely and frequently, they will acquire the tools necessary for effective word recognition. The more they practice writing, students will begin to notice patterns in word meanings and automatically recognize sight words.

- Word recognition can be fun! Students love games like Bananagrams®. Bring a Bananagrams set into the classroom and allow students time to play the game with one another. Encourage them to build as many sight words as possible as they play.
- Flashcards are a helpful tool in practicing word recognition. Ask students to create their own sight word flashcards and give them time to use their flashcards as a learning tool.
- Matching cards can serve as another fun activity in the practice of word recognition. Students can match the same sight words to each other, just like in the game “Memory.”
- Students can also use their artistic and creative skills in learning and recognizing sight words. Assign different sight words to groups of students, and have each group create a poster showing off their words.





Name _____

Date _____

WORD SEARCH: SIGHT WORDS

Find the words in the word search below! When you find each word, write it on the blank line so that you know you have found it.



KNOW _____

SAID _____

THAT _____

THE _____

UNDER _____

WITH _____

YES _____

OF _____