

Your child has now got word cards please cut them up along the line and place in the bag provided.

# Making Word cards fun!

I am aware that word cards can become a bit of a chore for both your child and you, so here I have put together a few games and ideas for making the learning of word cards a more enjoyable experience.

## Climb the Stairs

Place a reward (e.g., fruit, sweet) at a point on the stairs agree with your child that if they reach the reward they can have it. Make sure that it is achievable i.e. if he/she usually gets 4 words right start with the reward on the 4th step as time goes on move it up.

As your child gets a card correct let them take a step up. If they get a card incorrect make them stay on the step they are on but give a few clues as to how they can recognise this card next time.

Cuddly toy race Have 2 cuddly toys. The child chooses his/hers and then if they get a card right this one can move along. If they get one wrong the other toy moves along.

## Elimination

Lay all cards on the floor ask children to say the word and turn it over. As time goes on they will get to a few that they don't know look at one or two of these closely and decide how you can recognise them easily.

## Call and Turn 1

Lay all the cards out face up and you call the words, ask your child to turn them over as you call the words and try to get quicker and quicker at this activity.

## Call and Turn 2

Lay all cards on the floor and get your child to call out the words, you turn them over but make some mistakes and see if your child can catch you.

## Catch me out

Put the cards in a pile face down. Turn one over. Give your child the first attempt to win the word. If they get it right they win it. If they get it wrong you have a chance to win it (remembering to point out to your child strategies that you use to work it out e.g. It begins with 'w' so it could be went but there is a 's' at the end so it must be 'was'.) Carry on till all the words are gone and then give your child chance to steal by looking at your words. If they get any correct they can have them. The winner is the one with the most cards.

## Card snap

Deal out the cards and play snap looking at a pre decided letter (initial or final) when two words are laid with the same initial or final letter it's "SNAP". The one who says it quicker wins the pile of cards.

## Fetch

Put the word cards laid out in another room or at the opposite end on the room from where you are Say a word and get you child to collect it and bring it back to you as quick as they can.

Making sentences (for when they have a larger number of words)

Tell your child a sentence. Ask them to pick the words and build a sentence.

### Strategies for working out word cards

1. Match it to a word in the reading book. Read the whole sentence (using the picture to help) pointing to a word at a time as they read and then identify the wordcard word.

Josie wanted a party.

wanted

2. If the word is phonetically correct (e.g., cat) sound out the letters and blend them together.

3. Look at the shape and length of the word.

look

help

4. Look at the initial letter

“Wanted” starts with ‘w’ (use the sound of the letter) so can’t be “had.”

### **Parent notes!**

When we are certain that your child knows the sight words that they have we will give them additional words to learn. The words that children get are high frequency words and tricky words.

Around 2000 words make up 80% of spoken language the most common words are high frequency words, these are words that once your child can recognise on sight will make their reading and writing flow.

Tricky words are words that your child will be unable to sound out using their phonic knowledge as they do not follow the general phonetic rules, for this reason children need to learn these words by sight.