**Sight words** are words that students will run into over and over and may see a dozens of times in a day. Sometimes people call them high-frequency words, popcorn words, star words or even heart words. In kindergarten, we teach how to read/recognize words simply by seeing them. Just as you see a face and recognize someone. The goal of teaching sight words is for word recognition to be automatic. By teaching sight words we help children read and write more fluently.

**Here are some ideas for teaching sight words.**

**1. Build it with manipulatives**

Pull out your magnetic letters, playdough or letter tiles (scrabble). Have your child help build the word. It’s important to explore what words look like by changing it and coming back to the original. You can choose a letter (or letters) to switch out or around. Example: take the word “the” and turn it into “hte” or “tme”. Have students identify what’s wrong. We need them to recall the look of the word and remember it. Use a lot of drama, have them close their eyes during the switcheroo. Be sure to always come back to the correct spelling and review.

**2. Find it in print**

Our kiddos need to see words in print. That means not just on a flash card (though that’s good too) but in actual print, surrounded by other words, separated by spaces. Kids can clap, snap, stomp or wiggle when their finger lands on a sight word they are learning. Have them finger frame or circle the word when they find it in print. It’s also important to reward kiddos for finding sight words when they reading. You could give some kind of incentive like high fives, fist bumps, or even a single tiny treat (smarties) when they finding it.

**3. Writing IT**

Students should write the sight words many different ways. They can write it in the air using giant letter strokes or with a paint brush and water colors. You can tracing the words onto their backs or tummies and have your child guess the word you spelled out. Change it up from just using arms and hands for writing every once in a while to using their feet or elbows. Just keep things fun and fresh.

**Here are some websites for more ideas:**

**1.** [**https://www.curiousworld.com/blog/sight-word-games**](https://www.curiousworld.com/blog/sight-word-games)

**2** [**http://www.playideas.com/25-crazy-fun-sight-word-games-for-kindergarteners/**](http://www.playideas.com/25-crazy-fun-sight-word-games-for-kindergarteners/)

**3.** [**https://sightwords.com/sight-words/games/**](https://sightwords.com/sight-words/games/)

**4.** [**https://www.education.com/worksheets/kindergarten/sight-words/**](https://www.education.com/worksheets/kindergarten/sight-words/)