

We will be using The Fry's Instant Word Lists next year.

The Fry word list or "instant words" are widely accepted to contain the most used words in reading and writing. The list is divided into ten levels and then divided into groups of twenty-five words, based on frequency of use and difficulty.

In 1996, Dr. Fry expanded on Dolch's sight word lists and research and published a book titled "Fry 1000 Instant Words." His research found that a mere 25 words make up approximately 1/3 of all items published. He discovered that 100 words comprise approximately 1/2 of all the publications written, and 300 words make up 65% of all written material.

Over half of every newspaper article, textbook, children's story, and novel is composed of these 300 words. It is difficult to write a sentence without using several of the first 300 words in Fry's Instant Word Lists. Consequently, students need to be able to read the first 300 Instant Words without a moment's hesitation.

It is important for young readers to instantly recognize these words by sight in order to build up their reading fluency. It is also important for readers to practice words in meaningful context through phrase and sentence reading practice. As a follow up activity, children can practice writing short sentences including Fry words.

As your child reads books and these lists, you'll quickly be able to identify words that they are having trouble with. Also, as children write in their journals and read aloud, regular misspellings and misuse can provide you with a target list of words to spend more time on.

There are many great web sights on the computer with worksheets, activities, and games. Search and check them out online.

~Susan Axtell