Games for Word Wall and Sight Word Recognition

Sight Word Cards

Because the Sight Word Kits only come with twenty cards for each word, you will need to make several extra sets of words ahead of time. You can simply write them on index cards or type and print them. You should have at least four sets of each sight word for your classroom use. One will be used for the **word wall.** Another will be used for the **ticket out.** Another will be used for **introduction and drill.** Another will be used for **games and centers.**

Sight Word Take-Home Rings

Prepare a sight word take home ring for each child using the Lakeshore kits. The first two words will be **is** and **my.** Put the word ring in the pouch provided. Label it with the student's name. Cards are provided for this. Also attach the parent card that lets the parents know about the sight word cards. It explains that the words should be read each evening for homework. In the blank at the bottom, write in "daily". Explain to your parents that the pouch should be kept in their school bag at all times. On Mondays your assistant will need to collect them and add the two or three new words for that week. There is a cute poem:

Now I lay me down to sleep
In my head these words I'll keep
When I go to bed each night
I will read these words by sight.

This little poem can be copied (see attached), laminated and put in their word pouch.

Sight Word Introduction and Drill

Have a puppet or class mascot bring out and introduce the new sight words for the week to the students. It will make it exciting for them! Or have the new sight words in a little mailbox, **surprise sack (see song that follows)** or something similar. It should be the same thing each week, so that the students anticipate it. Keep all the sight words together. After the new ones have been introduced mix them up. Hold each one up and drill like you would for multiplication facts. This should be done DAILY in your morning meeting before you read your morning message. As the words increase you may want to drill half one day and half the next or choose some to play a game with, etc.

Surprise Sack (Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)
What's in the surprise sack, who can tell?
Maybe it's a book, or maybe it's a shell.
What's in the surprise sack, who can see?
It's something special for you and me.

Sight Word Introduction Song

After the Sight Words have been "discovered", try singing this song with them to the tune of "Have You Ever Seen a Lassie?" or just make up your own song.
Have you ever seen a new word, a new word, a new word?
Have you ever seen a new word, that looks just like this?
You then spell and sing the word pointing at the letters. **Example:**
m,y, m,y, m,y, m,y, (It is important to point to each letter as it is said).
Have you ever seen a new word that looks just like this?
The class then says loudly**: MY**

Ticket Out

Each and every time the students file out of the classroom they will be required too **touch, read** and **say** the weekly sight words. Use some sticky or tape to attach **one** different sight word to the doorframe each day. It should be at the student's eye level. Hold the word up and have the class say it before you put it on the door frame. Explain to the students that it is their ticket to leave the classroom. If they can't say the word, they cannot leave. They love this! As they go by the word, they touch it and say it.

Buried Treasure

You can use this one with sight words but it can also be used for numeral identification, letter identification or any other skill. To play the game, display 4 or more words in the pocket chart. First, check that the children are familiar with the words. The children then turn their backs and close their eyes. Then hide a small counter/paperclip/coin behind one of the cards. The children turn around, put up their hands and the chosen child then must ask in a sentence, "Is the buried treasure behind.....?" The child also comes up to point to the word. Pull the card out and answer, "Yes/No the buried treasure is/is not behind ....." If the answer was no, the card is put back into place and another child is called upon until the treasure is finally revealed.

Human Sentences and Mystery Sentences

As the year progresses, the student's will know enough words to create a human sentence. For example: Select six volunteers to come to the front of the room standing in a line facing the class. Hand them each a sight word that you have preselected. One of the cards should be a period. They each hold their card up so the class can see them. The class reads them. **you I see like . to** Ask the students if this makes sense. The words do not make sense. Call on a volunteer to come move the students into the correct order. **I like to see you.** The class then reads the corrected sentence. This is a wonderful opportunity to explain that words have to make sense in order to be a sentence. You may also use the **rebus picture cards** to make the sentences more interesting. This may also be done as a game at the table during center time. Just put the word cards in a basket or small pocket chart. Challenge the students to put the Mystery Sentence together.

The Magic Hat

Put selected sight words into some kind of crazy looking hat or other container.
The teacher waves a magic wand over the hat as the students chant the following:
Bibitty, bobbity, boo,
Close your eyes and say "achoo!"
And the words will speak to you!
The teacher selects a student to come forward and pick a word out of the hat, without peeking. The student holds the word to their ear, pretending it is speaking to them. The student shows everyone the word, and reads it to the class. The class repeats the word. The teacher collects the word and the game continues with the chant.

Play "Word Wall Teacher"

During center time, be sure to have several pointers available for students to point and read the word wall. They love to be the teacher!

Morning Message - Take Home

During center time, be sure to have several pointers available. If your morning message is on chart paper let your students know that the first one to read the morning message to the teacher during center time will get to take it home. The parents will love this! If it is on a dry erase board you could do the same thing, but instead give them a sticker.

Sight Word Badge

Put a **sight word** into a clear name tag badge. It can be a clip on or hung around your neck with a lanyard. The teacher wears this for the day, changing the word each day. Several times during the day the teacher stops, holds her badge up and says "Cheer Time! Give me an 'm, give me a 'y'. What does it spell? MY!" This helps to ensure that the students are being exposed to the sight words all day.

Morning Message

Run the laminating machine, not putting anything in it. Make the piece of laminating film large enough to cover the morning message. Clip it over the morning message. At center time students may come and use a dry erase marker to circle any sight words they may see or the letter of the week. They can then erase it for the next student.

A Tisket, A Tasket

Have the children stand in a circle. Choose one child to skip around the outside of the circle holding a basket filled with several sight words, as the other children sing, **"A tisket, a tasket, a green and yellow basket; I wrote a word for my friend and on the**

way I lost it. I lost it, I lost it and on the way I lost it; A little child picked it up and put it in their pocket." Just as the rhyme ends, the skipping child sets the basket down behind another child in the circle. This child must turn around, pick up a word from the basket and read it. They show it to the class and they read it. The teacher then collects this word. The child that read the word, now skips around the circle looking for a place to set down the basket as the class sings. Play continues.

Teeny Tiny Words

Type sight words randomly on the page in a very small font. Give students a magnifying glass. Challenge them to find and read them to each other. (Please see attached sample).

Stomp

Write the word STOMP on several cards. Mix them up the sight word cards. While drilling sight words, when you come to a STOMP card the students stand up and STOMP their feet. They say, "STOMP, STOMP, STOMP , STOMP! Then drill resumes. This just interjects a little fun and movement.

Musical Words

Scatter word cards on the floor (far apart), play music, students dance around. When the music stops, everyone must find a word and stand on it. The teacher points to each child as they read their word.

Word Walk

This game is played much like a "Cake Walk". The words are placed in a circle. Music is played. The students march around the words. The music stops. Each child stands next to a word. The teacher has a duplicate set of words. She holds up a word. The class reads it. Whoever is on that word is the WINNER and go to the middle of the circle. Game resumes.

For more ideas, cards and games go to carlscorner.us/com>reading>HFW
Also angelfire.com/stars3/education/earlychildhood.html