



Phonics Home Learning Ideas – High Frequency and Tricky Words

➤ What are High Frequency and Tricky Words?

High Frequency Words

You might hear your child mention 'High Frequency' words when they discuss their Phonics learning. These are commonly used words that children should be able to memorise by sight and the aim is for your child to recognize these words instantly. Knowing their High Frequency (HF) words helps to develop the children's confidence when reading and it also benefits their understanding – if a child can immediately recognise lots of words, they can often work out the meaning of the sentence and then focus on decoding the words that they aren't familiar with.

Some of these words do not follow the basic phonics principles, so they cannot be "sounded out." The more opportunity your child has to become familiar with these words, the better and the best way to learn them is to practise!

Tricky Words

The children are also taught to read and spell 'Tricky Words' in their Phonics sessions. They are common words that have complex spellings in them. Tricky words cannot be sounded out easily and children can find it difficult to read out the word, as the sounds don't accompany the letters, for example: 'the', 'you' or 'what'. The children use a range of different strategies to learn tricky words in Phonics lessons and it is always helpful if this learning can be consolidated at home.

Included in this document is a list of fun activities which you can complete with your child to help them to recognise these important words. Your child's class teacher can explain which Phonics Phase they're currently working on and will be available to answer any questions which you may have.

➤ Phase 2- 5 High Frequency Words

Phase 2 to 5 High Frequency Words

Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5	
a	to	will	too	went	when	Mr	by
dad	him	that	was	from	some	looked	their
I	had	then	all	children	come	made	oh
mum	in	now	look	little	there	your	could
big	no	she	we	it's	what	came	about
it	got	this	you	just	so	saw	house
at	go	with	her	help		Mrs	time
on	an	for	be	said		don't	day
up	as	he	they	were		asked	people
back	can	them	are	out		very	here
if	off	down		like		make	I'm
but	not	me		one		put	
of	get	my		have		called	
into	is	see		do		old	
and	the						
his							



➤ Phase 2-5 Tricky Words

Phase 2 Tricky Words

the

to

I

no

go

into

Phase 3 Tricky Words

you

they

all

are

my

her

he

she

we

me

be

was

Phase 4 Tricky Words

said

like

do

come

there

little

out

have

so

some

were

one

when

what

Phase 5 Tricky Words

oh

could

their

people

Mr

Mrs

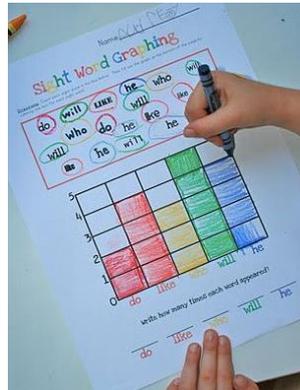
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called

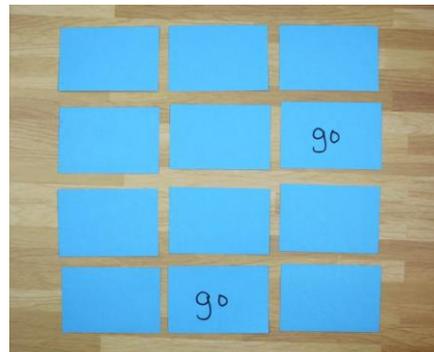
asked

➤ **Activities to support learning High Frequency and Tricky Words**

- Write the HF or tricky words on lolly sticks. Write 'dynamite' on a couple of the sticks and put them all into a jar or bowl. Pull them out one-by-one and read the word. If you pull 'dynamite', you have to put them all back in the jar.
- You could keep a record of how often you spot specific HF or tricky words within your reading book. Perhaps you could even create a simple bar chart to show which is most and least regularly used?



- Play 'High Frequency/Tricky Word Battle'! Playing with a partner, use two stacks of HF or tricky word cards. Each player flips over a card and whoever reads the word first wins the card. The person with the most cards wins! You could also use the cards to play HF/tricky word snap!
- Play 'Pairs' using two sets of HF or tricky word cards. Take turns to reveal two words at a time and see if you can find a matching pair. If you find two of the same word, you keep the cards. The winner is the person with the most cards at the end.



- Reading and writing words written in a range of different ways is always good practise. Could your child practise writing the words in shaving foam, or in trays of flour, rice or lentils? Maybe they could use a glue stick to write out your HF/tricky word. Cover the page on glitter, tip the excess on to a tray and watch the HF/tricky word appear! The possibilities are endless – get creative!



d hun
How



words



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- Lego or building blocks can be used in a range of different ways to practise HF and tricky words. Your child could make the words using the pieces or build words using pieces marked with letters.



- Write the tricky or high frequency words using water and a brush then watch them magically disappear as they dry!
- Cut the letters you need out of magazines or newspapers to make ransom-style tricky word posters.
- Create wax-resist activities with the words. Write the words using a white wax crayon or candle. Your child paints over the top of them with watered down paint to magically reveal and read the words.



- Playdough can be used to practise tricky and HF words in lots of different ways! The images below give a few ideas but there are plenty more to try! Easy to follow playdough recipes are available online.

