

Appendix D10

Teaching High-Frequency Words

Choose one new high-frequency word to teach each week or every few days. Do not move too rapidly to introduce and teach new words. Have a lot of materials available to teach new words. Some items you could use include magnetic letters, a cookie sheet, a chalkboard or white board, and paintbrushes of different sizes. Choose from some of the following activities and be sure to allow variety. Mix it up each day you teach a new word. The purpose is to allow various kinesthetic (hands-on) learning opportunities to solidify what a word looks like.

1. **Magnetic letters:** Prepare the letters needed to teach a new word, such as "here." Show the word on a chalkboard or cookie sheet where the magnets will stick. Show your child how to "break" the word, letter by letter, from left to right. Have your child stand or sit to the left of you. Without saying any letter names or sounds, move each letter one at a time, going down to the left diagonally--first the "h," then the "e," then the "r," then the "e." Underline the word with your finger and say out loud, "Here." Have your child copy you and do it the same way. Watch his/her eyes and make sure they are following the letters as they move from left to right. After a few times, shake up the letters in your hand. Have your child make the word again using the magnetic letters.
2. **Chalkboard or white board:** Have your child write the word using chalk or a dry erase marker. If he/she cannot remember how to write the word, make the word visible with magnetic letters at the top of the board. Once your child has mastered that task, take the letters away and see if he or she can write the word independently. The idea is to use a lot of different writing tools to write the word. You can also use crayons and markers on paper. Have him/her do this 3-4 times without looking at the word.
3. **Paintbrushes:** Use a paintbrush and water to "write" the word on a chalkboard (or you could even use the driveway outside). Use different-sized paintbrushes to make the words big or small. Always have your child underline the whole word at the end and say the word out loud.