



Sight Words

An early Reading & Spelling Adventure 

**PARENT AND TEACHER
HANDBOOK**





Thank you for choosing “Sight Words” to provide your child with an engaging platform to practice reading and writing the most common words in English. This handbook will give you an in-depth description of the application so you can maximize your child’s learning. It will also provide an overview of how we chose the words included in the game, expert advice, and several useful tips and ideas for how parents and teachers can extend the child’s learning beyond the game.

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Our Approach

A

WHAT ARE SIGHT WORDS?

Sight Words, often referred to as high frequency words, popcorn words, or even tricky words, are commonly used words in English. Children are encouraged to recognize these words by sight so no decoding strategy is necessary when encountering them while reading. Sight

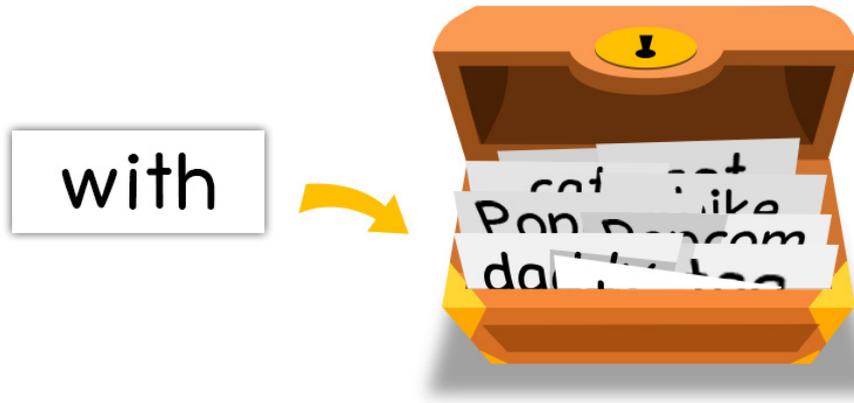


words account for up to 75% of words in printed texts today thus, a child who can recognize them with ease will have an advantage as they learn to read. Sight word recognition is also a standard in the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts at the primary level.

Our Approach

B

HOW DID WE CHOOSE THE SIGHT WORDS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GAME?

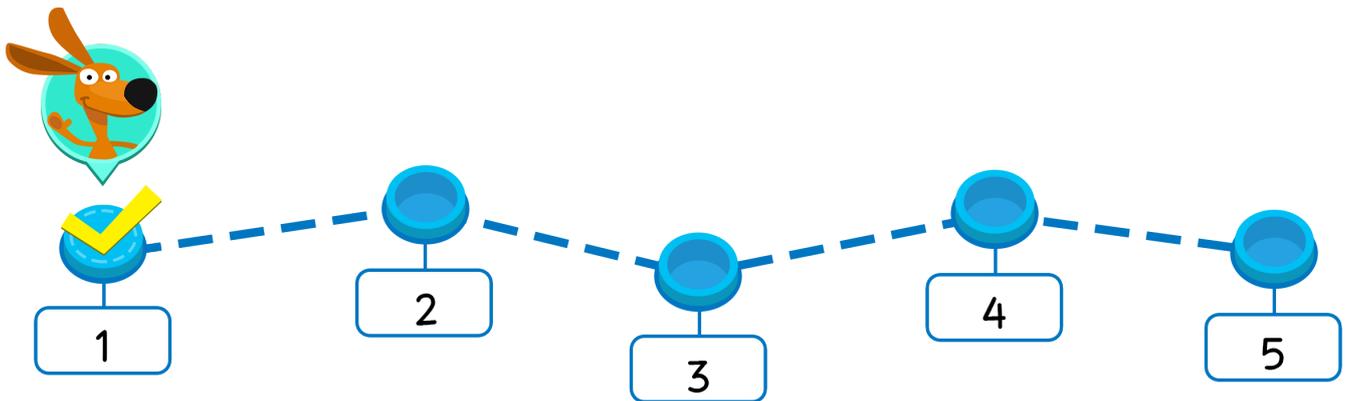


Over the years, several research studies have been conducted about high frequency words with the end goal of providing parents and teachers with an easily accessible, leveled list of words for young readers to memorize by sight. Those most popularly used include: Dolch's, Fry's, and many more! Each of these lists attempts to provide a comprehensive collection of words seen in texts for early readers and categorizes them according to different levels (usually related to grade level appropriateness). The resident teacher at Edoki Academy examined all of these lists and combined them into a database. We then compared each word's level across all lists, weeded out the ones that weren't culturally relatable or were too culture-specific, and ended up with an end-product of 320 words that we spread across 5 levels of play.

Our Approach

C

WHAT DO THE LEVELS MEAN?

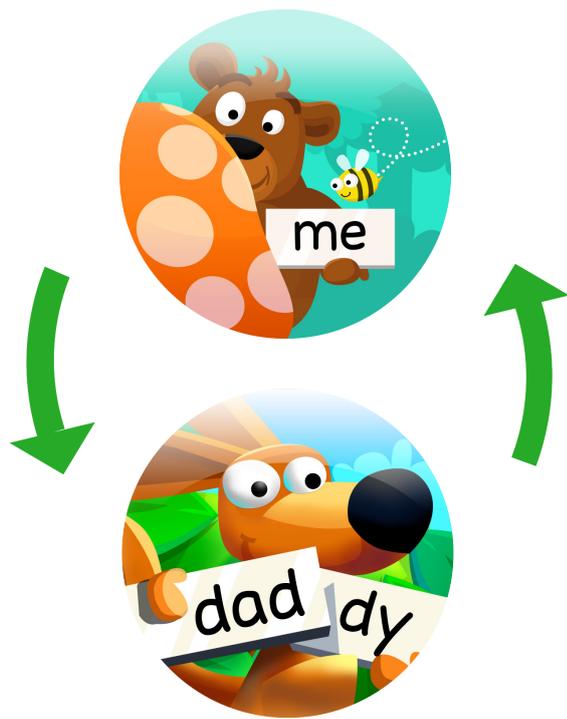


Our levels 1- 5 correspond to levels Pre K- Grade 3 (US) or Nursery- Year 3 (UK). We chose to label our levels this way because we want those children who may need to practice at a lower or higher level than their peers to feel comfortable working with words that are appropriate to their abilities and needs. For some children, the connotation of working at a grade level different from the one of their classmates can cause them to feel pressure. We wanted to alleviate this as much as possible so the child's experience can always be positive.

Our Approach

D

HOW DOES THIS APP COMPLEMENT PHONICS INSTRUCTION?



In 1997, The International Reading Association's president, John Pikulski, released a statement with regard to his position on teaching literacy. It said that, "early, systematic, explicit phonics instruction is an essential part, but only part, of a balanced, comprehensive reading program."

Furthermore, "phonics instruction, to be effective in promoting independence in reading, must be embedded in the context of a total reading/ language arts program." ¹

The Common Core State Standards ² operate with a similar thought in mind, including the study of sight words in their standards for building foundational skills in reading. When phonics and sight words are used together to teach children to read, we increase

Our Approach

D

HOW DOES THIS APP COMPLEMENT PHONICS INSTRUCTION?

their chances for success. For this reason, Sight Words was developed as a complement to The Joy of Reading. When combined, these two apps provide your child with the platform necessary to be a winner!

1 http://www.reading.org/Libraries/position-statements-and-resolutions/ps1018_phonics.pdf

2 <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RF/K/3/c/>
<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RF/1/3/g/>
<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RF/2/3/f/>
<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RF/3/3/d/>

Words of Wisdom

Sight Words' artificial intelligence and game design is deeply anchored in Hermann Ebbinghaus' memory theories. The repetition of a word in various environments gives the child the chance to acquire a mnemonic trace of it.

“Under ordinary circumstances, indeed, frequent repetitions are indispensable in order to make possible the reproduction of a given content. Vocabularies, discourses, and poems of any length cannot be learned by a single repetition even with the greatest concentration of attention on the part of an individual of very great ability. By a sufficient number of repetitions their final mastery is ensured, and by additional later reproductions gain in assurance and ease is secured.” **-Hermann Ebbinghaus, on memory and learning**

Gameplay

Sight Words is a fun-filled game where children can learn to recognize, read, and write up to 320 sight words! Containing 11 mini games designed to increase the child's exposure to high frequency words, this app will ensure that your child has interactions that will enable them to acquire the words into their long term memory.



Hide and Seek



Pop the Balloons



Memory Match



Whack-a-mole



Bingo!



Bear's Maze



Letter Scramble



Speed Racers



Silly Songs



Construction



Typewriter



GAME 1

Hide and Seek



Search for Kangaroo in the magical forest and see new sight words! This game serves as the central point of the app because it symbolically represents all of the skills necessary to learn sight words (visual attention, morphology, active listening, and of course visual memorization).

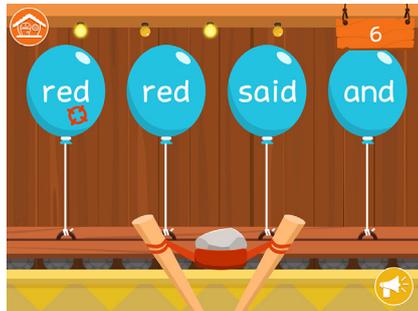
How to Play:

Swipe the screen to search for Kangaroo. Tap her when you think you've found her! Repeat this three times to learn three new sight words. Once a new sight word is presented to the child, it can be placed inside the treasure box to be cherished!



GAME 2

Pop the Balloons



Children target the balloons with the correct sight word and pop them using a slingshot.

This game situates the child in a carnival-like setting where they can use their fine motor skills to manipulate the slingshot!

How to Play:

Children must aim the slingshot at the correct balloon and pop it. The slingshot can be manipulated by tapping the elastic strap, dragging a finger on the screen to aim the target, and releasing the finger once the desired balloon is marked.



GAME 3

Memory Match



Find all the word pairs in this game that challenges the child's ability to memorize space visually.

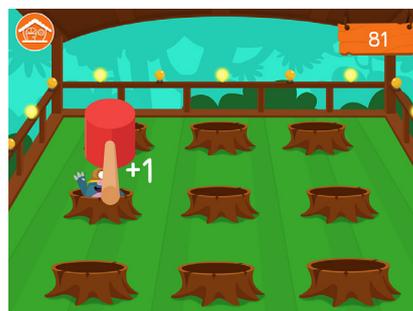
How to Play:

Flip the cards by tapping the screen.



GAME 4

Whack-a-mole



Whack the moles who are not holding the correct sight word using our oversized mallet! This game encourages the child to read and recognize sight words with speed and accuracy.

How to Play:

The child will be given a word. He or she must whack all of the moles who are not holding it. Tap the moles to whack them. Be sure not to tap the ones who do have the correct sight word, in order to keep them alive!



GAME 5

Bingo!



This game is a twist on the family classic and teacher's go to on a Friday afternoon! Practice word recognition, get three in a row, and you win!

How to Play:

Yellow balls emerge from the Bingo tube at random. Place the ball over the matching word on the card. If the word on the ball is not featured on the card, throw it in the waste bin by swiping it.



GAME 6

Bear's Maze



Guide Bear through the maze to collect the cherries that spell a given word. Children stay challenged as the mazes get bigger and more difficult as the child advances throughout the levels of play.

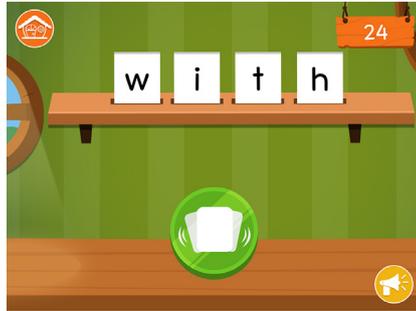
How to Play:

Using your finger, drag Bear through the maze to eat the cherries that spell out a given word. Once you've done so, the cave door will open so he can retrieve his favourite treat!



GAME 7

Letter Scramble



Unscramble the letters to form a word in this mini game that challenges the child's ability to spell words from memory.

How to Play:

Shaking the screen or tapping the green button will cause the shelf to drop the letters that compose a word onto the table. In later levels, ants will march in with some extra letters to make the task of reforming the word more challenging!



GAME 8

Speed Racers



Construct a racetrack by matching the words on the dominoes. Once finished, try to beat the purple snail in a race!

How to Play:

Match the dominoes by tapping and dragging them. Once the racetrack is complete, tap the screen as quickly as possible to help the orange snail win the race!



GAME 9

Silly Songs



Help the band remember the words to their new song!

How to Play:

Tap the characters in order to repeat the words in the song. A green spotlight will hover over the characters when they are singing! You have three chances to get the order right, after that the audience might throw some tomatoes your way!



GAME 10

Construction



Build a structure to help the mouse eat the cheese!

How to Play:

Manipulate the blocks by dragging them with your finger in order to build a tower that leads to the correct cheese.



GAME 11

Typewriter



Practice spelling by typing words on a vintage piece of technology.

How to Play:

Listen to a word said by our actress and tap the letters on the typewriter to spell the word correctly. Incorrect letters will flash in red.

Learning Path

Sight Words is a digital playground where children can make the decisions with regard to how they play with sight words. There is no specific order in which games must be played and no limit to how many times they can be enjoyed! The child is the captain of their journey in this game.



Play games in the treehouse to practice reading the words



Play in the cave to practice writing skills



Play in the forest to see if you can find all of the sight words that Kangaroo is hiding! Once you've collected three words, Kangaroo will invite you to play three random games with her.

Customization

This app contains many tools that customize the user's experience according to their unique needs. Here's how to use them!



- To access the parental dashboard from the main menu, tap the blue button in the top left hand corner of the screen.
- This will lead you to the screen where the levels of play are featured, tap the parental dashboard icon in the top left hand corner.
- Once you've answered a skill-testing question, you will be granted access to the parental dashboard.
- While it is not necessary to create an account in order to play the game, you will enjoy certain benefits if you do so:
 1. Play with the same account on several devices.
 2. Ensure that you won't lose your progress.

Customization

Activity tab



- See your child's overall progress as well as their success in each level of play.
- Tap on the levels to see a breakdown of the child's progress in each level in the app.
- The ★ column will display your child's success with each particular word in the level.
- Check the box in the  column to place emphasis on certain words that you really want the child to practice with!
- Add new words to a level by tapping the . Type the word out and tap the microphone to record it. Words should be typed in lowercase letters, accents on letters will not be included in gameplay.

Customization

Add Words Tab

- Words can also be inserted into the game by visiting this tab. Simply tap the  , type the word in, and hit the  to record it.

Settings Tab

- Choose to hear instructions and words in English in an American, Australian, or British Accent.
- The parental dashboard can be translated into 22 different languages, choose yours!
- Choose to play with lowercase or UPPERCASE letters

Account Tab

- Add as many profiles as you want to the app. Simply tap the  and type in the name of the child. Tap  to explore sight words with that profile.

Extended Learning

In the Classroom

- Organize your own game of **Sight Word Hide and Seek** in your classroom! Hide 20 - 30 sight words around the room and have students look for them. This is a great ice breaker activity to introduce or review vocabulary.
- **Word Bingo!** Print a set of bingo sheets and laminate them. Using dry erase markers have students copy a word-list down onto their sheets in random order. Call out the words and have children use chips to cover the ones they have, five in row makes Bingo! This game can be made more challenging by simply dictating the words without writing them on the board, this way the teacher can assess whether students are able to spell the words correctly.
- **Musical Sight Words:** Print out and laminate coloured paper featuring sight words and affix them to the floor. Play your class' favourite music, when the music stops each child should be standing on a tile and able to say the word written on it.
- **Lighted Letters:** Light tables are an awesome tool for the classroom and can make spelling sight words a glowing experience. Write each letter of the alphabet onto the

Extended Learning

bottom of clear, coloured plastic cups in a variety of colours. Have the student spell out different sight words using the cups. This activity works well when teaching with learning stations.

At Home

- **Pop the Balloons:** Fill some balloons with water, write a sight word on each one, and scatter them around the yard or playground. Call out a word and have your child find and pop the balloon with the correct sight word. Great on a hot day!
- **Letter Scramble with Scrabble Pieces:** Mix up some Scrabble pieces on the table and ask the child to form as many words as they can within a certain time limit.
- **Twister with a Twist:** Label each of the circles on the Twister mat with a different sight word, add them to the spinner board, and there you have it, Twister with words! This is a great activity for kinesthetic learners!