High Frequency Words:

What Parents Need to Know

**What are High Frequency Words?**

High Frequency Words are words that students will encounter often while reading. These words often don’t carry much meaning on their own but add a great deal of meaning to a passage. They can often break common spelling rules or patterns. High Frequency Words should be read quickly- without the need to sound them out. These should be words students “just know”.

**Why are High Frequency Words important?**

Knowing High Frequency Words improves a child’s fluency while reading. It gives them confidence in attacking a sentence, and allows them to sounds like a reader even before advanced reading skills develop.

**How do High Frequency Words work in Stonegate’s Kindergarten program?**

In class, your child will be learning new High Frequency Words weekly. After we have introduced these words at school, we ask you to practice them at home. By practicing High Frequency Words at home students will continue to become more confident in reading them fluently. These words will show up in the readers students receive at school, and the more confident they feel with their High Frequency Words, the more confidently they will tackle new learning in reading groups.

**What words should my child practice and how?**

Each week you will receive a list of High Frequency Words your child should be practicing. Practice the words from your child’s weekly homework sheet as well as any words previously sent home. Attached you will find a list of recommended ways to practice High Frequency Words at home. We hope you have fun practicing these words with your child. If you want to find even more ideas, feel free to look some up online. There are so many ideas out there! Get creative and go beyond flashcards.

10 Ways to Practice High Frequency Words at Home

1. **Flashlight Words:** Tape high frequency words on the wall or ceiling. Turn off the lights and use the flashlight to shine on a word, then have your child read it. For a larger challenge, flash the light briefly on the word and see if your child can read it quickly before the light disappears.
2. **Tic-Tac-Toe:** Write high frequency words in the tic-tac-toe spaces. Take turns selecting a space to read. If read correctly, an X or O is placed on the space until someone wins.
3. **Word Hunt:** Look for target high frequency words in books or in the newspaper or a magazine. If using the newspaper or a magazine your child can highlight or circle the words that she finds.
4. **Stair Chase:** Place two high frequency word cards on each stair. Let your child pick one word on the way up, saying the word and picking up the card when they’ve read it correctly. Have them practice the other high frequency words on the way down.
5. **Chalk Writing:** Go outside and practice writing high frequency words with chalk on the sidewalk.
6. **Word Fishing:** Write high frequency words on anything that can be placed in water. Place whatever you’ve used in the bathtub or in a bucket of water. Using a net or simply closing their eyes and grabbing, your child can fish for words. If they read the word correctly it remains out of the water, if not it goes back in the water for another attempt.
7. **Multimedia Writing:** Write high frequency words with play dough, in sand or shaving cream, with magnetic letters or alphabet cookies, or in any other medium you can think of.
8. **Word Dive:** Write high frequency words on tape with a permanent marker. Place tape on diving sticks. Toss them in the pool (or in the bathtub in cooler weather). Your child can retrieve a stick and read the word. If they read the word correctly it remains out of the water, if not it goes back in the water for another attempt
9. **Snowball Toss**: Write high frequency words on cups. Give your child cotton balls. Your child should toss cotton balls into the cups, reading the cups whenever one lands inside.

**10.Tall Tower:** Write high frequency words on blocks. Build a tower using the
 blocks your child can read.