

Classroom Activities

Activity 1: Read Sight Words Fluently

Note to Teacher: This is an activity on sight words.

- In all languages, sight words are words that appear with high frequency.
- Often, but not always, sight words are words for which it is difficult to draw pictures/visuals.
- Any text consists of around 60 per cent to 70 per cent sight words.
- Because they come so frequently in texts, it is important that these words be recognized quickly in the process of reading. Automatic recognition of sight words helps students read faster.
- Reading of sight words in a text helps students to experience success in the reading process.
- In teaching sight words, the emphasis is on word recognition.
- Sight words are generally function words. But content words may also be taught as sight words. In the case of content words, ensure that the learners have some sense of their meaning.

Each week, teach at least 15 to 20 sight words. Maintain a record of the words that students find difficult so that these can be specifically targeted in the learning process.

Objectives

- To be able to read sight words quickly
- To be able to use sight words in sentences

Materials

- List of sight words (see example below)
- Slips of paper – one sight word written on each slip
- Long string
- A stick/scale

Scope: Grades 1 to 3 (the complexity of sight words will increase with the level of each class.)

Activity for whole class

Procedure

- On a long string that runs from one wall to another, attach the sight words (the height should be such that students are able to reach it with the stick/scale).
- Teacher points to a student and calls out a word, e.g. “yaha” (this)
- Student indicates the slip on which the word is written, reads the word and makes a sentence with it.
(When students have learnt to match the called out sight word with its written form, then go to the group activity.)

Group activity

Procedure

- Students are divided into groups.
- Each group is given newspapers/text books/photocopies of stories.
- The students underline the sight words they have learnt (textbook of math, science and other subjects also have to be used for this activity to convey the message to the