



The Kindergarten Chronicles

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Sight words... how do children best learn them?



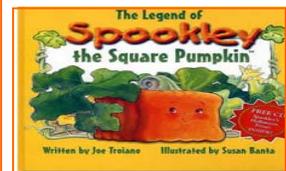
We expect students to learn many sight words in kindergarten. Students can learn sight words even when they may not yet recognize all of the letters or know all of the letter sounds. Therefore, I begin introducing several sight words the first week of kindergarten. Sight words need to be taught in context. Students need to recognize them in the weekly big books that you use during shared reading, find them in your poem for the week, and locate them in leveled readers. I specifically choose approximately three words per week during our lessons. I also model using these words in our journals as we write. When I immerse students in just a few words per week, and I constantly refer to these words, the students do learn them and remember them. However, it takes many times of exposing them to these words before the students can decode and encode these words automatically. Practice makes permanent!



The words are printed on different colors and the shape of the words are cut out to help students visually discriminate the different words on the wall. For example, students will decipher *the* and *do* because they are on different colors and the shapes of the words are different. Model writing and cutting out the words in front of your students, thinking aloud as you do so.

I have a Word Wall in my classroom. I add approximately three words on the word wall per week. I add them toward the end of the week after we have found them in many contexts. When students are writing in their journals, I ask them to refer to the word wall and spell these words correctly in their writing.

October Book Pick

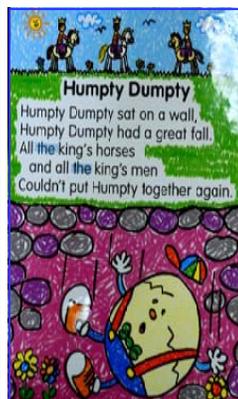


This book is an outstanding book to use at this time of the year. It has a message about accepting everyone regardless of our differences in appearance or abilities. After reading, I bring in lots of materials for students to make their own unique pumpkins...many different colors, sizes, and shapes of paper, as well as many sizes of stems, googly eyes, and mouths. Students create their own pumpkins that we then display in our class pumpkin patch!

I'm Thinking of a Word Word Wall Game

This is a very simple game to play with students whenever you have a few minutes before dismissal. Give students a clue such as "I'm thinking of a word that has three letters." Allow students to respond with three letter words. Point to the words as students give their responses to confirm that all of these words have three letters. Then give another clue such as, "I'm thinking of a word that has three letters in it, and it ends with an "e". Allow students to share, and then give a final clue to narrow down which word it is. This game is a fun way for students to read the word wall words and to look at the spelling of the words!

Poetry is a very effective way to introduce many sight words to students. I like to use nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes have rhythm and rhyme which make them easy for students to chant. I give students their own copies so that they can point to the words as we chorally read as a class. Students can also circle the new sight words on



their individual copies. Students can come up and highlight the new sight words using highlighter tape, as shown in the poster size poem, with the word "the" highlighted.

RF.K.3c Read common high-frequency words by sight (e.g. the, of, to, you, she, my, is, are, do, does).
RL.K.5 Recognize common types of texts (e.g. storybooks, poems).

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