

Reading Practice with High Frequency Words

What and Why?

Drs. Edward Dolch and Edward Fry compiled lists of the most common words found in print. The goal is for these basic words to be learned by sight and practiced to the point of automatic recognition. Instant recognition of these words initiates better reading because their easy retrieval allows the student to more fully concentrate on decoding challenging words.

Practicing these words in short sentences and phrases builds this automatic recognition while developing fluency.

What to do:

- Have your child read aloud these high frequency word phrases once or twice a day
- Work with the same phrase sheet for one week prior to moving on. This helps with fluency and confidence, but stops short of memorization
- Monitor to ensure accuracy. Many small words are misread as a pattern (i.e. *'this'* for *'these'*) and reinforcing error through non-correction is to be avoided when possible
- If phrases are too difficult, have child read individual high frequency words in columns or from index cards.