

How to Teach Sight Words Using a Word Wall...

and enhance comprehension in the process

In this lesson I'll be sharing a series of activities that begin with word recognition and end with comprehension and higher order thinking. For the sake of this lesson, I am using 12 words, but in my classroom, the walls were full of words. We had a word wall which was arranged in ABC order in columns and then we had a wall devoted to our big words grouped by part of speech: nouns, verbs, and adjectives.



Activities

The word wall to display in your schoolroom is below. Note that as we progress through the activities, we will move from simple word recognition to more in-depth work.

1. **Find and write.** *The purpose of this activity is to simply find the words accurately.* In this activity, children are on the rug facing the word wall with whiteboards and markers on their laps. (I used paper and pencil only when I needed a hard copy at the end of the week to show which words each child truly recognized). Say, "Find and write the word KIND." One clue that the children can learn to use at the beginning is listening for the initial sound in the word, which narrows the available choices down to one word in this example! If I call out a word such as BEGAN or NEVER, they will have to look past the initial sound to locate the correct word. Suggest they listen for the next consonant sound. If you say, "Find and write BEGAN," the children will locate BEGAN and BETTER as both start with the B sound. Next, however, they would compare the G in BEGAN and the TT in BETTER with the word you called out. In this way, they can use clues to find the right word.

began	were
better	over
under	kind
far	off
soon	never
find	next

2. **Rhyming words.** *The purpose of this activity is to get the child past just finding the word and to thinking about other characteristics.* For this activity, you will say a word that rhymes with a word on the word wall and the children will need to find the correct word and write it.

- Find a word that rhymes with STIR (WERE)
- Find a word that rhymes with TEXT (NEXT)
- Find a word that rhymes with LETTER (BETTER)

- d. Find a word that rhymes with NOON (SOON)
- e. Find a word that rhymes with MIND (KIND, FIND)
- f. Find a word that rhymes with WONDER (UNDER)
- g. Find a word that rhymes with LEVER (NEVER)
- h. Find a word that rhymes with COUGH (OFF)
- i. Find a word that rhymes with STAR (FAR)
- j. Find a word that rhymes with ROVER (OVER)
- k. Find two words that rhyme with each other (FIND, KIND)
- l. Find four words that end exactly the same (BETTER, UNDER, NEVER, OVER)

3. **Opposites and more.** *The purpose of this activity is to get the children thinking about the meanings of the words on their word wall.*

- a. Find the word that is the opposite of LOSE (FIND)
- b. Find the word that is the opposite of MEAN (KIND)
- c. Find the word that is the opposite of UNDER (OVER)
- d. Find the word that is the opposite of ARE (WERE)
- e. Find the word that is the opposite of ENDED (BEGAN)
- f. Find the word that is the opposite of ALWAYS (NEVER)
- g. Find the word that is the opposite of ON (OFF)
- h. Find the word that is the opposite of NEAR (FAR)
- i. Find the word that is the opposite of WORSE (BETTER)
- j. Find the word that is the opposite of LAST (NEXT)

4. **Use the clues.** *Again, this is an activity that will require the children to think of the meanings of the words. Tell the children you will provide them with clues and they will find the word that best answers the clue.*

- a. This word means "Not under something." (OVER)
- b. This word means "It's not as bad as it used to be!" (BETTER)

- c. This word means "They used to be." (WERE)
- d. This word means "Not on." (UNDER)
- e. This word is what you do when you lose something. (FIND)
- f. This word means it will not happen ever. (NEVER)
- g. This word means, "One more, and then me!" (NEXT)
- h. This word means, "Something is on top of me, so I am..." (UNDER)
- i. This word means, "To start something." (BEGIN)
- j. This word means, "Not near." (FAR)

The activities we've talked about above are examples of some of the types of activities found in Beyond Sight Words Activities which you can find on www.child1st.com.