

A suggested system to teach high frequency words

Work on one word at a time (eg: the). Print the word in a suitable text, but write it large and red, font size 200. Several times throughout the day, present the word to the child saying, "This says 'the'". Let the child look at the card for a few seconds, then take away, saying nothing else. After this has been presented 5 or 6 times in exactly the same way, the next time present the card saying, "What does this say?" at which point the child should say, "the", and receives lots of praise.

The following day, begin by asking, "What does this say?" If the child responds incorrectly, repeat the same process as described above for another day. If the child recalls correctly it is time to move on to the next word. Present eg: and , in the same way, at repeated moments throughout the day. At the end of the day, ask the child, "What does this say?" for both 'the' and 'and'.

Using this method it should be possible to introduce 1 new word per day, while constantly reinforcing previously learned words.

After 1 week, the words can be presented in red font but in a smaller font size eg, 100. Over the next couple of weeks, size can be reduced again and again eg to 50, then 30, then 20. At 20, the colour can also be changed to black. This process is taking place at the same time as new words are being introduced in the original large red font.

The method can be delivered by the class teacher or TA without too much difficulty as it takes only seconds each time the card is presented, so can be done as the children are changing activity or each time they walk into the class. Some time needs to be spent in preparing the words, but if each word is prepared in every font size initially and stored in the classroom, the words that the child is working on can be added to and changed easily.

The method can also be used to teach numbers and letter sounds, blends etc.

Examples of recommended font size

the

the

the

the

the