

Practicing Vocabulary

Studying new vocabulary words is probably one of the most important parts of your child's homework. It can also become one of the most frustrating tasks for parents. The key is to try and make the vocabulary drill fun. Below are some suggestions for studying new and troublesome words with your child. As you work with a word, have your child say the letters and the word.

1. Use a chalkboard to write the words.
2. Use soap crayons and practice writing the words in the tub.
3. Put salt, sand, or sugar in a box and have your child write the words with their finger.
4. Make the word out of play dough or clay.
5. Use water colors and paint the words on paper.
6. Put the flashcards on the floor in a line and see how far your child can walk.
7. Put some shaving cream on a tray or kitchen counter and have your child write the words in shaving cream.
8. Use cereal or macaroni in the shape of letters to make words.
9. Use magazines to cut out letters and paste into words.
10. Play a game with flashcards. Hold up a card. If your child can read it, they can hold it. If they cannot read the words, then you keep it. The object is for the child to have more cards than you and to improve each time you play.

The main goal of vocabulary practice is to learn to recognize the words on sight. Praise your child often, reward them for their efforts, and realize that some words may be difficult to master.