Phonics Games to Play at Home

Tricky word or high frequency word snap

Have a selection of high frequency or tricky words written on cards or squares of paper. Shuffle the cards and divide between players. Take it in turns to place a word down in a pile in the centre and say the word out loud. When two match it is a ‘snap’. The person who says ‘snap’ first wins the pile of cards.

Matching pairs

Have selection of pairs of high frequency words or tricky words on cards. Place upside down and take it in turns to turn over two cards to try and find a matching pair. Always say the words aloud when turning over the cards.

This can also be played with graphemes for learning phoneme/grapheme correspondence.

Brain Training

Show a tricky word or high frequency word. Encourage your child to look carefully at it. Ask them to take a photo of it with their imaginary camera and lock it in their brain. Cover the word over and ask them to write it down. Then turn over the word and see if it is a match. If it is they get a point. If not you get a point. Repeat until the child wins. The child needs to win to feel success and also to learn the correct spelling.

Timer

Challenge your child to write a tricky word or high frequency word as many times as they can in up to 2 minutes. Use a timer to add some fun. If you notice the spelling is wrong the first time stop the timer, look together at the word again and ask them to spot the mistake. Write it correctly together. Then try the challenge again.

Up the stairs/down the stairs

Place a word card or phonic grapheme card on each step of the stairs. Child to collect cards as they go up or down the stairs. If they read the word/ say the sound correctly they can move up to the next step and collect the one they have just read. Challenge them to collect all the cards. Maybe put a treat at the top as added incentive?!

If you don’t have stairs this could be played along a corridor or even in the garden by laying out a path of cards to follow.

You could add a timer to provide an extra challenge.

What’s in the box?

Have a selection of words or graphemes on cards. Place some in a shoe box, or similar. Lay more of the same cards face up. Your child can pick a card with their eyes closed from the box. If they read it correctly they can place it upside down on top of the matching word card. Challenge them to cover over each word.

Lotto/Bingo

Make a lotto board for each player with a maximum of about 6 words/ graphemes on each.

Lotto – Have matching words on cards in another pile face down. Take it in turns to pick a card. If it matches one on your board you can keep it and cover it over. If it doesn’t match, read the word aloud and ask ‘Who has (word)….?’ That player can then look for the word on their board and they can keep it if they have it. If more than one person has the word it is the first to say the word aloud that wins the card.

Bingo - Have a ‘caller’ who reads out words which are on the boards. The other players can cross out the word if they have it on their board. The first to cross all the words out shouts ‘bingo’ and wins.