High Frequency words

Reading

It is important to keep revising the words that your child can already read. We call this 'overlearning'. This helps to make the word recognition very secure.

When they can fluently read them (no sounding out) add one or two new words. Too many new words in one go will be overwhelming.

It would be helpful to write them onto pieces of paper or cards to make flash cards. The words can then be read in different orders so that your child recognises the word and not the sequence of words. Alternate the words that you are revising so that you are not trying to read more than about 10 at a time

You can play games with the cards. Make 2 sets and play matching pairs or snap, lay the cards out and ask them to turn them over and read the word. With a single set of cards, you can play a game where they can keep each card that they read accurately, you keep the words they can't. They should win because there will only be one or two in the set that they can't read. This sense of success is very motivating.

Alternatively lay them out on the floor or in the garden, Say the word and ask them to run or move to that word. Or put one on each stair. Ask them to read the word as they go up each stair.

The Twinkl website has some excellent resources such as games and flash cards that you can print off. There are also some interactive games on the ICTgames website which make learning fun.

Spelling

Look, say, cover, write and check is the best method for learning to spell the high frequency words.

Have the word written down. Ask the child to say the word. Cover the word and then ask them to write it down. Uncover the word and then ask the child to check if they have written it correctly. Repeat this process with each word.

As with reading, start with 5 words that they know how to spell. Then add a new one. When that one is secure, add another and so on. Please correct back to front letters. Ask them to write that letter 3 times.