



KATHYRN SCHOOL



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Dear Kodiak Families,

We are very excited to launch our high frequency word program!

The program will first be implemented with our younger students (grades 1-3) and will expand to other grades at a later date. The goal of the high frequency word program is to assist students in building word recognition and automaticity.

What are high frequency words and why are they important?

Did you know that at least 50% of texts are made up of the same frequently used 100 words? We call these words high frequency or sight words. Many of these words are small and easy to recognize (I, it, the, and) but many others cannot be easily sounded out using phonetic cues (like, what, good). Using phonics or pictures for reading words like these is ineffective for emerging readers; therefore, students need to know these words by "sight". The fewer words a reader must decode, the more attention a reader can devote to understanding and comprehending what they are reading.

Kathyrn School High Frequency Word Program

Students will work their way through ten colour coded high frequency vocabulary lists. This may begin as early as kindergarten if students appear ready and will continue through the grades until students have mastered each list. The lists are comprised of 1000 high frequency words we would like our students to be able to read on sight. The first 3 lists, the Power (white), red and pink word lists contain over 65% of words found in elementary texts. Many of which do not follow standard phonetic rules to allow successful "sounding out" of these words.

This program is personalized for each student; that is, students will be working through these words at their own rate, to allow a "just right" level of challenge. However, we are hoping that with home support, students will learn to read all 1000 words before the end of grade 3. As this is personalized, we recognize that some students may require more or less time. We also respectfully request that parents don't push students to learn words at a rate above their comfort level, as we want this to be a positive, rewarding, and enjoyable experience for all involved, particularly our children.

Throughout the week we ask that students work with an adult to learn, practice and play with their sight words. Fun ideas and games for word play activities are included with this information. These sessions should comprise no more than 5 to 10 minutes of your family homework time, at least 4 times per week. We also ask that your child brings the words to school each day as they will also have opportunities to practice them at school. Once your child learns all the words on the list, reading each without hesitation, please write a note in your child's agenda to indicate that they are ready to be assessed. When your child is successful with all the words, a new set of sight words will be assigned by their classroom teacher.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Kathyrn School Literacy Team

Word Games

1. **CLIMB THE LADDER** Arrange a group of words in a long vertical row. If your child says every word without hesitation, they have "climbed the ladder". If a word is missed, practice them and then try the "climb" again.
2. **USE THE WORD IN A SENTENCE** Let your child begin by using one of the words in a sentence. As their confidence grows, encourage the use of more than one word in a sentence.
3. **BEAT THE CLOCK** When your child knows the words quite well, but just needs a review, see how many words can be said in 30 seconds or even a minute. Keep track and periodically try and see if the old "record" can be beat.
4. **MEMORY** Show your child 2 words. Take them away and see if he/she can remember what they were. As his/her visual memory improves, he should be able to remember 3 to 5 words that are shown and then taken away.
5. **BINGO** Place all cards on the table with the word facing up. The parent and child each have their own markers. One partner will read a word, the other must look for the word and mark it. If the person selects the wrong word the other player can mark it. The person with the most marks wins!
6. **WORD SNAP** Place all word cards in a pile face down. Each person takes a turn to flip the card. The first person to say the word correctly wins the card.
7. **JUMP TO IT** Place 5-10 sight word cards on the floor. Tell the child three words at a time and have them jump to each of the words. They get to pick up the word if they identified the word.
8. **BASEBALL** Make three bases in a room in your home. Flash the word to the child, if they read the word they get to move to a new base. When they get to home base, flash all three words again. Reward them with a sticker or item of your choice.
9. **CLUE** Orally make up a sentence and leave out the sight word. Have the child look through their words to select the correct word that fits the sentence.
10. **FIND ME** Using four words at a time flash a word and then place it face down in the order flashed in a row. Then tell the child to find where they think the word is you asked them. They turn the card up and get a point. Then have them drill you.
11. **FAST FLASH** Flash cards in 3 second intervals. See how many they can read instantly. Any of those they can read put aside and then flash the other again until they retain words.
12. **SIGHT WORD HOCKEY** Place the word cards down. Give the child a coin. Turn the card over and have the child read the word. If they read it correctly the adult makes a net using their hands and the child gets to take a shot into the net. If the word is wrong they need to put it in the penalty corner and try it again later.

Other Ideas

- spell the words with magnet letters
- write the words in sand, flour, paint or in other fun ways (rainbow writing)
- create riddles and provide clues to the word (Example: My word has 3 letters and starts with 't' and ends in 'e'. (the)
- put the words in alphabetical (ABC) order