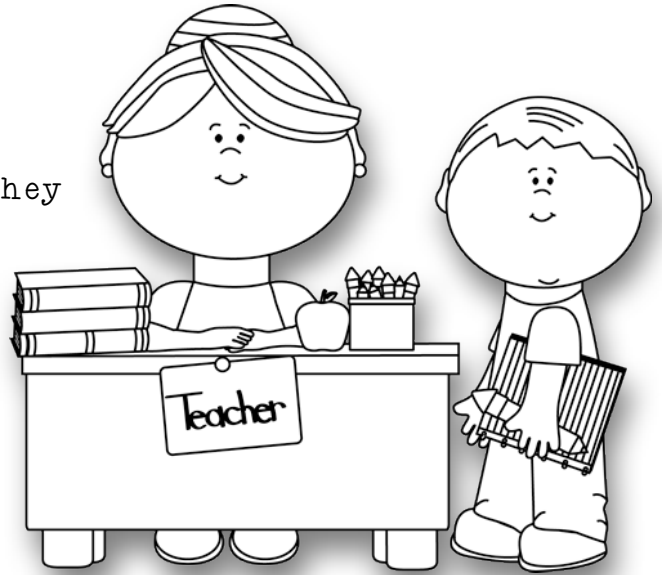


First Grade Sight Word Program

Notes for Parents:

Sight word mastery is vital to early reading success! In order for beginning readers to use reading strategies to decode unknown words, they must have a strong bank of known sight words. They are called "sight words" because students need to know them ON SIGHT. This means, they are able to quickly read the word with no decoding. It is like seeing a picture of a DOG and being able to say "dog" as soon as it is seen. Most of the sight words are not phonetically based which means that the letters and the sounds don't always match.



Since sight word knowledge is so important, each first grader will take an oral sight word assessment each week. The sight word assessment will come home in the Friday Folder. I will circle unknown words and indicate if a student mis-read the word by writing the mis-read word beside the sight word. (i.e. if the word is "what" and the student reads "when", I will write "when" beside the word "what" - this helps me know that the student is only looking at the first letter and not looking at the whole word).

There are 2 reasons for errors.

1. **Does not know the word securely** (this means he/she knows the word ALL the time). Sometimes students know a sight word "some" of the time but not ALL the time. If a word is secure, the student knows it on a list, in context, on the wall etc. Secure knowledge is the goal.
2. The student **did not look carefully** at the word and mis-read the word. (i.e. reads "with" for "will" - student only looked at the beginning and middle but did not look at the ending).

Each week new sight words will be introduced. These words will be included on the bi-monthly newsletter so you will know which words will be assessed. The new words will be assessed the week AFTER they are introduced and practiced. While we practice each day at school, some students will need additional practice at home. The assessment will also include randomly selected words from any previous lists. That includes words from kindergarten.

Suggestions for sight word practice activities can be found in the READING GUIDE for PARENTS (which will be sent home soon if it has not already come home with your first grader).

Sight word practice is part of the first grade reading homework. How much time you spend on sight word practice will depend on your child's needs. Each student is different and may need more or less practice depending on his/her abilities.