Intervention Guide: Sight Word Flashcards
(2nd-3rd Grades)

Purpose

Objective: Students will master 300 sight words using an incremental rehearsal (IR) flashcard approach.

Skill Area/Need: Accuracy of the 300 sight words.

Preparation

Pre-assessment
- Determine what sight words to teach by using the paper/pencil Sight Word informal assessment provided in the materials or use set of 300 flashcards.

Progress Monitoring
- Paper/pencil informal assessment of sight words or set of flashcards

Time
- Conduct intervention 3-5 times per week for 5-10 minutes until 300 sight words are mastered (approximately 8-16 weeks)
  - The goal is to learn 6-15 words per week

Materials
- 2-3 unknown sight word cards and 9 known sight word cards
- Prepared short phrases/sentences that go along with chosen sight words
  - Option: write/print phrases on sentence strips
- 300 Sight Word Lesson Log
- Sight Word Informal Assessment

Format
- Large group, small group or one-on-one with teacher leading intervention
  - May modify intervention in large group to include peer partnering (include enough student flashcard sets when preparing materials).

Daily Lesson Plan
- Introduce 2-3 new unknown words each day. The following day, review unknown words from previous day(s) until the unknown words become known words.
  - Unknown word becomes a known word when it has been read correctly within 2 seconds during at least 3 different sessions.
Intervention Procedures

Prepare Materials
1. Identify 2-3 unknown sight words and 9 known sight words the student(s) need to practice from the master deck of 300 sight word cards. Then, select one unknown sight word and place it on the top of the pile of the 9 known sight word flashcards.
   - Example: 3 unknowns include was, you; school; 9 knowns include I, a, if, it, in, by, are, good, that
2. Prepare 1-2 short phrases or sentences with each of the unknown sight words in the sentences.
   - Use a book or story from core instruction with the unknown words in it if possible.
   - Use sentence strips with the 1-2 short phrases or sentences.

Explain the Activity
3. Explain the activity by providing the basic objective and what the activity includes (this step can be shortened when students become familiar with the intervention activity).
   - “Today you will learn the words ‘was,’ ‘you’ and ‘school’. These words are important to learn because they are in many sentences in books. We will be practicing these sight words by going through a flashcard activity and reading sentences with these words.”

Review Sight Words
4. Show the student(s) the first card with the first unknown word, “was,” at the top of the pile. Read it for the student(s) and have the student(s) say the word after you. Then read through all of the words in the deck with the student(s) repeating after you to make sure the students can say all of the words correctly. Say:
   - “First we will go through the deck of words and I will say the word and then you will repeat the word after me all together.”
     - “This word is was. What word? (Student response). Good, this word is was.”

Model the Activity and Provide Guided Practice
5. Next, show the student(s) the first word again, “was,” and have the student(s) read it. Say:
   - “Now we will do the flashcard activity together.”
   - “What word? (Student response). Good, this word is was.” (prompt response if needed until students provide responses within 3 seconds or less).
6. Then, show the first known word, “I”, and have student(s) read it.
   - “What word? (Student response). Good, this word is I.”
7. Go back to the beginning and show “was” again and have student(s) read it. Then show the known word “I” and then the known word “a.” The pattern is to show the unknown word and then all of the previously shown known words adding one additional known word in a growing pattern:
   - was
8. After completing the flashcard sequence with the first unknown word, confirm that all students know the word. Then, this becomes a known flashcard in the next sequence with the other knowns in the deck and remove one of the other knowns (e.g., take out “I”).

“Now I want each of you to take a turn reading the word to me.” Provide corrective feedback if needed and note which students have not yet mastered the word (if any).

9. Next, the second unknown word, “you” is presented. Read the word to the students and then have the students read it.

“This word is you. What word? (Student response). Good, this word is you.”

10. Then, repeat the flashcard sequence activity with the second unknown (see Step 6):

   you
   you - was
   you - was - a
   you - was - a - if
   you - was - a - if - it
   you - was - a - if - it - in
   you - was - a - if - it - in - by
   you - was - a - if - it - in - by - are
   you - was - a - if - it - in - by - are - good
   you - was - a - if - it - in - by - are - good - that

11. After completing the flashcard sequence with the second unknown word, confirm that all students know the word (Follow Step 8). Then, this becomes a known flashcard in the next sequence with the other knowns in the deck and remove one of the other knowns (e.g., remove “a”).

12. Next, the third unknown word, “school” is presented. Read the word to the students and then have the students read it. Then, repeat the flashcard activity (see steps 6-10) with the third unknown added to the sequence.

13. After completing all flashcard sequences, check that the students know all of the words by shuffling the deck and having each student read the words individually or chorally (Follow Step 8).

   If desired, the students can track the words they have learned on a class-wide tracking chart on a wall or board.
Give Clear Feedback

14. Provide verbal praise after each correctly read word throughout the activity. As student responses become automatic, level of verbal praise can be reduced (e.g., provide a head nod to acknowledge correct responses versus verbal response).

15. Provide corrective feedback when any student makes a mistake on any card or if students do not respond within 3 seconds of showing the card. With a neutral tone, read the word correctly and have all students repeat it before moving onto the next card.
   - “(No), this word is ‘was’. What’s this word? (Student response). Good.”

Provide Applied Practice

16. After learning the words, provide time for students to read the words in the prepared phrase/sentences or other connected text/book with the words in it.
   - Model the phrases/sentences first, read it with the students all together, and then have the students read them chorally or pair and share. The sentences or phrases can be written on sentence strips, the marker board or typed and displayed on a smartboard.
Additional Ideas

Procedure Modifications or Accommodations

- For larger groups, consider teaching the general IR strategy to all students and then provide flashcards for sets of partners who can complete the flashcard activity in pairs. Then, have the pairs of students read sentences together or as a group.
- The ratio of unknown to knowns can be changed to match the needs of your students. If the students are not able to retain 3 unknown words from the previous day, then reduce number of unknowns to 2.
- Teacher may also opt to use a smartboard for the flashcard sequence by creating the sequences of flashcards in a powerpoint slideshow prior to implementation.
- Write the unknown words for the day (and week) on the board and provide opportunities for students to practice the words throughout the week.
  - For example, have students use each of the words in a phrase or sentence of their own and have the students write down the sentence(s) if possible with the word(s) they used underlined. Then, have the students read their phrase/sentence to 1 or 2 other students.