



Key Word Ideas and Games

There are some words in the English language that cannot be read phonetically. Unfortunately, the only way to learn these words is by sight.

Here are some games you could play with your son/daughter to help familiarise themselves with these 'tricky' words.

*Card games such as snap or pairs.

*Word hunt. Hide words around the house or in the garden for your child to find. Can they read them when they have found them? Can they write them down?

*For visual learners, physically drawing around the shape of the word is useful as a way of remembering what the word looks like.

*Discuss with your child ideas for pictures, symbols or actions to associate with the word-similar to the way we teach Jolly Phonics. Play a game where your child gives the action every time they see a tricky word in their reading book.

*Tricky word bingo/lotto.

*Trace over the words. Talk about the letter shapes and height.

*Writing tricky words in lots of multi sensory ways. E.g. In flour, sugar, salt. Out of play dough, in chalk, in glue and glitter, paint with water on the patio/pavement etc...

*Cut out hand shapes with the words written inside each hand. Stick to the wall and your child has to high five the hands and read out the word.

*Tricky word hop scotch. Draw a hop scotch on the patio with chalk with the words in the boxes. Your child could either hop on the words and read or roll a pebble and call out the word it lands on.

*If you have 'Twister' at home, attach tricky words to the circles. E.g. "Put your left hand on 'the.'" Put your right foot on 'come.'"

*If you have skittles at home, attach tricky words to the skittles and your child has to call out the words they knock over.

*Make tricky word stepping stones either with just sheets of paper on the floor or written with chalk outside.