



Dear Reception Parents

Thank you for all of your support for both reading and learning our tricky words. Several people have asked me for any tips on how to help their child remember them! A few suggestions:

- Look at the word; say the word; cover it and see if you can remember it. (Easier for some words than others I know!)
- Focus on one new word at a time if needs be - add more in as confidence grows.
- If words are similar, learn them as a group eg. he/she/we/be/me.
- Keep on practising! Keep seeing if you can remember the 'old' ones as well as the new.
- Try to think of a sentence to include the word. Keep the sentence simple - you could perhaps write it down for your child and use the word card in the right place.
- Make extra cards for other words to make sentences - this makes the words more meaningful and easier to remember.
- Stick copies of the words all over the house! Use different coloured pens - get your child to copy it each time. Dot the same word here, there and everywhere and play spotting games or 'find the word' games. Give points if you can remember the word.
- Play 'pairs' games - make duplicate words and lay them face down on the table. Can you find two the same? This is best played with only a small number of words to begin with. Again, give points each time you are successful.
- Play at finding the word really hard yourself and ask your child to help you - they love becoming the teacher!
- Make a bingo game with some of the words on boards. You say a word and your child has to see if they have it on their board.
- Spot the words in books and all around us - help your child to get used to capital letters too. It is a big step when children realise that the word is the same, even if it has a capital letter at the beginning!
- We soon begin learning to **write** some of our tricky words too. The first set we do this for is: "the, to, I, no, go."
We use the 'Look, say, cover, write, check' method. Look at the word, say it, cover it up, have a go at writing it and then check it.

I do hope these are helpful. Remember - these words aren't called 'tricky' words for nothing and children do gradually learn them. Meanwhile, your support is invaluable to them.

Thank you for your support.

Debbie Tilley

