

Sight Word Bingo Instructions

Grade 2

Sight Word Bingo is played exactly like regular Bingo, only instead of calling numbers, you will call sight words. If your child was in the program last year, we played this game in sessions, and I have used only the Dolch words that are non-decodable for your child (these are the words from last year's Power Point flashcard slideshow that I sent home). In the game, there are several Bingo cards to choose from, and there are also printable cards for the game caller to use. To cover the words on the card, you and your child can use bits of paper, dried beans, coins, dry macaroni, or something similar that you have around the house.

After someone yells "Bingo," they must uncover each word and read it correctly aloud to the game caller to check. Bingo can be gotten horizontally, diagonally, or vertically. If a player cannot read all sight words correctly in their Bingo row, he/she does not win and the game continues. They may have another chance to read their Bingo row words after the next word is called.

I designed this Bingo set to be a fun way to practice sight words, which are a very important early literacy skill. Drilling with flashcards can quickly become humdrum, and it's good to mix up the practice routines, although you could certainly still use the Power Point slideshow from last year if you choose. Also, even if your child does not know the sight word that was called, you can give him/her hints such as "It's in your bottom row," or "Even though 'one' sounds like it starts with a *w*, it actually begins with the letter *o*." This is how we play in class, so everyone has a chance to enjoy the game no matter what level of proficiency they have with sight words, and it allows students a chance to practice with each word that's called.

Your child worked very hard on his/her sight words last year, and they are an integral part of early literacy and oral reading fluency. The purpose of using and practicing these words at the beginning of second grade is to continue to build proficiency (if your child has not mastered 100% of these words) and to build automaticity, so that your child can recognize these words fluidly while reading.

Some variations: As your child becomes more proficient and automatic with the sight words, you can allow them to use the cards and be the game caller. Also, as they grow more confident and faster at recognizing the words, have them play with two Bingo cards at once instead of just one, for an added challenge.

All students learn differently, and sometimes a student who struggles and/or dislikes learning words from cards really picks them up quickly with a different mode of instruction, such as a game. Happy playing!