

Sight Word String-Ups

A fun, hands-on spelling activity!



String up bright sight words in five developmental levels with pipe cleaners, letter beads and color-coded word cards. Each color represents a level: primary colors for basic learning and green and orange for more advanced levels. The sight words are printed in lower case letters, making them easy to recognize and perfect for early spelling activities. We've included blank word cards so teachers can create their own sight words using vocabulary they are studying or replace lost cards.

Sight Word String-Ups were inspired by Dolch words. Dolch words are a selection of words that appear most frequently in children's literature. Study these words to give children a good base of vocabulary for reading. Dolch words must be learned as sight words because most of them cannot be sounded out phonetically.

This kit comes with 4 trays. Either give one tray to each child or have students work in groups of 2 or 3. Fill the inner reservoir with the letter beads. Fold and then tear apart the perforated word cards. Give each child or group one word card to place in the card slot on the tray. Begin with the pre-primer words as indicted by red-framed cards. Follow with primer words in yellow; first grade words in blue; second grade words in green; and, finally third grade words in the orange-framed cards. Note: These grade distinctions refer more to each child's developmental level rather than specific grades or ages.

Students can spell out the sight words in three ways: First, young students can forego the pipe cleaner and sort through the beads, pull out the ones that correspond to their word and place the beads in the smaller reservoir in the correct order.

Alternatively, students can string the letters onto a pipe cleaner.

Lastly, students who are ready for a challenge can match up the colors of the letters and pipe cleaner with the colors

represented on the word cards. Tip: To make stringing easier, have students pre-sort the beads into each of the colors before they begin. They can even separate the vowels from the consonants. This will help reduce the number of beads they need to sort before finding the letters they need and will make the process much faster and easier. Children who are ready for the orange-bordered letters are ready for the challenge of sorting the beads by both letter and color.

Note: Use white and black letters as replacement letters for lost or missing beads. You can buy a package of replacement beads by asking your educational materials supplier for Roylco's #R2186 Lower Case Letter Beads. We produce the same bead in an upper case version (R2184) and numbers and operations (R2185). In this kit we use 6mm pipe cleaners (R36030).

Once your students have mastered stringing up sight words, explore other activities:

Alphabetize the sight words by first or last letter.

Once a student has strung up the letters in their word, they can print the letters onto a sheet of paper.

Use the word cards as flash cards. Hold up one card in front of the class and ask the students to read the word. Repeat with the rest of the deck.

Divide the students into teams. Sort the letter beads into colors with white and black representing one color. Either write a sight word on the board or call it out and ask the groups to find all of the letters in the word.

Make a connection between sight words and story time. Hand out sight words to the students. Tell each student to raise their hand when they hear their sight word. Ask the children to read their word out loud. Use a big book and read the story out loud while running your finger along text. At first you may need to read slowly and pause when you come across a sight word in order to give students a chance to associate the specific word with their card and raise their hand.

Wear a word bracelet! Each day students can string-up a sight word onto a pipe cleaner and wrap it around their wrist. Wear it home at the end of the day to show the words to friends and family. Return the bracelet to school the next day and string up a new word.

