

# Home Reading Program

*Infant through Preschool*

## Beginning Word Cards

**For Alphabet Phonograms with Words Flashcards**

Words are uniformly colored black.

## **Beginning Word Cards**

These are the same words that are in the Alphabet Phonograms with Words Flashcards. These word flashcards are used to focus on all of the phonemes in the words, rather than on the single phoneme shown in the words that accompany the Phonograms with Words Flashcards. Show one of these Beginning Words Flashcards soon after you have shown the same alphabet phonogram word flashcard that accompanies the phonogram. Showing the word card with uniformly colored letters will accustom the child from the beginning to seeing the words with all black letters, instead of the child getting accustomed to always seeing words with one stand out phonogram.

### **Description of Word Cards**

The words are in duplicate and are shown on both sides of the flashcards for convenience.

### **How to Assemble Flashcards**

Print flashcards and use card stock or poster board for backing. Match the two words together and slip the pages, back-to-back, into a sheet protector.

### **Presenting the Flashcards**

- Tell the child that you have word flashcards.
- Hold the flashcards steady, at the child's level, where he can see clearly without straining. For an infant this would be about 18 inches.
- Show ten flashcards. Take each flashcard from behind and bring it up to the front while pronouncing the word as you show the flashcard.
- Or you may want to place the child next to you on the couch and put the flashcards on your lap, instead, and hold up the top flashcard for the child to see. Or you may prefer putting flashcards in a

loose-leaf binder and flipping them over like a flip chart.

- Presentations should be done quickly and smoothly, about ten seconds for ten flashcards is ideal.
- Leave some time between sessions.

### **Pointers**

- Practice your presentation in front of a mirror until you are comfortable handling flashcards.
- Show flashcards when both you and the baby are feeling well and are in a good mood.
- Good lighting is essential.
- Eliminate noise and distractions before giving a presentation.
- Gain the child's consent to show flashcards. Pick a time when he's not doing something he enjoys; and do not interrupt him.

### **Focusing on Words**

- Show the word flashcard and say the word with precise pronunciation
- Then say the word again more slowly, pronouncing the sound of each phonogram in the word in a drawn-out, segmented manner while pointing to each phonogram as you articulate it.
- Then blend the sounds together again and say the word as you would speak it normally, using some emphasis.
- As you blend the phonemes, (sounds the phonograms make) move your index finger under the word from left to right in the same direction as the eyes would move when reading. All in all, the word is spoken three times.

### **Maintaining Interest**

Keep in mind that the rule is to stop before the child loses interest, so the child will be eager to see the flashcards next time you show them. If it works better for you or the child to show fewer flashcards (or more) show the number that works best.

*We hope you and your child enjoy this reading program. The gift of reading is one of the greatest gifts you can ever give your child. Early readers have all of the advantage in life, and it is never too soon (or too late) to begin to learn to read.*

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