

Welcome to the Pre-Training Assignments

One of the easiest ways to help a young child become a strong reader in the primary grades is to provide practice in learning the high frequency words. Learning to read these words quickly and correctly develops fluency and comprehension. It also promotes self-confidence and motivation.

During the Sight Word Busters training process, you will learn and practice all of the skills necessary to become an effective reading tutor in our program.

In our program, five volunteers typically assume responsibility for one classroom of 22 to 25 children. Each volunteer works one day a week for approximately one hour. For children to master high frequency words in record time, they should have the opportunity to practice daily. Volunteers work one-on-one with each child in the classroom for short practice sessions we call the *Two-Minute Session*. Teachers appreciate that each child is away from the group for only a brief period of time working with the Sight Word Buster volunteer (SWB).

The sessions take place quietly in the back of the classroom. All the materials needed are kept in a plastic bin on the shelf. Each bin has one booklet for each child, a record sheet on a clipboard, one badge per volunteer with a pencil and two types of stickers. The regular stickers are used to motivate the child each time he or she works with the volunteer. When an entire list is mastered, the special sparkle sticker is given and a congratulatory certificate page is completed in the booklet. All stickers are placed on the sticker chart inside the front cover.

You will need to know how to consistently deliver the two teaching strategies our volunteers use – The Pretest and the Word of the Day Shuffle. You will receive plenty of direction and practice on how to deliver each of these strategies during the training session and it will help going into the training session for you to have read the steps for each strategy on the following pages and watched the referenced videos located on our website.

One of the reasons our approach is effective is because all volunteers make a valiant effort to stay consistent with the steps. You will learn how important consistency is as you learn more about the program. The strategies are not difficult to learn but following the steps in the correct sequence requires a commitment.

Thank you for your interest in helping with one of the most important skills a little one has to conquer early in life – learning to read!

Please read through the terms and definitions before you begin studying the strategies.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Bonnie Curtis (925.858.0424), or Linda LoBue (530.887.8335).