

Orthographic Mapping and Sight Word Learning

- Sight Words
 - “A sight word is a familiar written word that is **recognized instantly, automatically, and effortlessly without sounding it out or guessing**. It does not matter if the word is phonetically regular or irregular. The point is that it is immediately recognized. A sight vocabulary word refers to all of the words a student knows instantly and automatically.”
- Word Recognition is **not** based on visual memory
 - Children with reading problems cannot remember words once they are learned
 - Children with reading disabilities perform as well as good readers on visual memory tasks
 - Visual memory does play a role in other aspects of reading such as alphabet recognition and reading comprehension
- Orthographic Mapping
 - Mental process used to permanently store words
 - Process used to take unfamiliar printed word and turn it into a recognizable sight word
 - Occurs naturally for most students
- Oral/Mental Filing System
 - Allows us to instantly access words we hear, sequence of sounds that we hear activates oral/mental dictionaries
 - Same system used to store and retrieve words for word reading
 - No separate visual dictionary
 - Input and storage are two different things
 - Written words are input visually, but they are stored and retrieved phonologically
- Letter Strings
 - Without phoneme awareness, letter strings are not meaningful and are difficult to remember
- Alphabetic Principle is the idea that children realize that written letters match up with the phonemes in spoken words
 - Early literacy skills and/or phonics instruction help facilitate this discovery

Equipped for Reading Success Module 5: Orthographic Mapping and Sight Word Learning

- Requires strong phoneme awareness and solid letter-sound skills