

## Fluency Activity: Sight Word Splat

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### a. Introduction

- According to Reading Rockets, fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. (Reading Rockets, 2016)
- Fluency is an important aspect of reading because it is one of the critical building blocks in reading. Fluency development is directly related to comprehension, when students read fluently they are more likely to understand what they are reading. In order for them to become fluent readers they have to be able to identify and read sight words almost instantly. The activity I chose for my learning center will have my student identify sight words through a game.

### b. Body

The activity I chose for fluency was *Sight Word Splat*. This game will require three students, one that calls out the words, and two that race to slap the word before the other opponent. The first one to get it picks it up and puts it in their pile. At the end of the game the one who has the most sight words wins. This activity is great for active learners, it helps them develop their fluency in a new and innovative way. *Sight Word Splat* requires them to learn how to read the words as fast as possible which ultimately develops their sight word knowledge. The more they practice hearing and reading the words the more they will develop their fluency.



### c. Conclusion

- Answer the question "So What?"

Developing fluency in young readers is important because it reduces the amount of time they spend decoding words and they are able to focus on the text which leads to comprehension. In other words, fluency allows readers to recognize words with ease and comprehend what they are reading all at once. Students who are not fluent focus more on the decoding the word than they do on understanding how it's being used and what it is they are reading.

- Synthesize, don't summarize

Knowledge of sight words is essential in reading because they are the words that students will encounter the most in reading and writing. Knowledge of sight words promotes confidence, reading comprehension, and clues for context. Students become more confident readers when they master the list of sight words for their grade level. This happens because they can easily recognize half of the sentence before they even begin to read as opposed to being discouraged because all words are unfamiliar. Sight words also aid comprehension because students open a book for the first time they won't have to decode every single word they come across and can instead focus on the meaning of the text. Sight words also provide context of the text for students. Children who are familiar with sight words are able to decode the meaning of the sentence or paragraph they are reading.

- Redirect your readers

Building fluency is important in order for students to understand what they are reading. If we do not help students develop fluency then they will spend more time decoding the words they encounter instead of focusing on the message being conveyed. Knowledge of sight words helps students develop their fluency since they are the most common words they'll encounter when reading and writing. Fluency builds confidence in students as they continue to read difficult text, if they can easily identify half of the words they see on a page it'll be easier for them to focus on the text and comprehend what they are reading.

#### d. References

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