

How to Use Puzzle Words

Place about 20 cards in a basket for the child to use. Tell the child, *“Some words in English don’t follow any rules. We call these puzzle words. We have to remember how they look so we can read them.”* Find three words the child does not know. Place these face up in a row in front of the child. Place the rest upside-down in the basket and off to the side. Conduct a 3-period lesson. **Period 1:** Touch and name the first card. Say, *“This says ‘the.’”* Encourage the child to repeat the word. Repeat this for the other cards. **Period 2:** Move your hands away and say, *“Show me ‘the.’”* Continue for the others. Keep it lively by asking him/her to put the cards in different locations. If several children are working together, ask *“Who has ‘the’?”* **Period 3:** Point to a card and say, *“What is this?”* If the child does not say the name, simply return to period 2. Later, inspire the child to try and write down the words with the movable alphabet or on paper. Turn one card face-down and say, *“See if you can write this down without peeking!”*