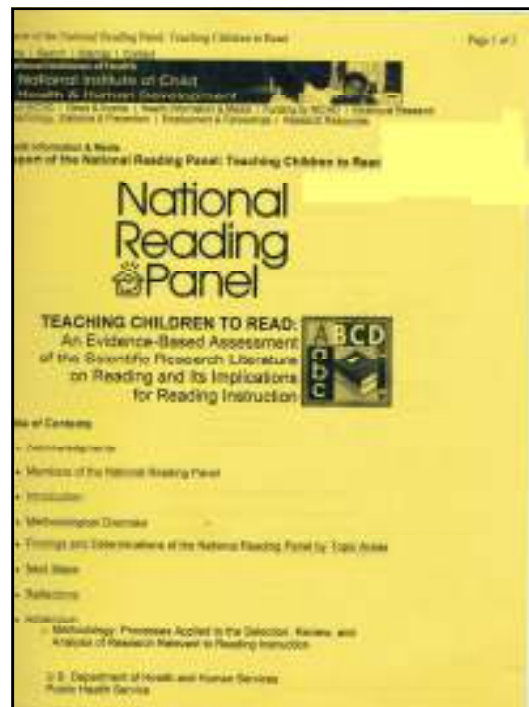


## The Story Behind the Repeated Reading High Frequency Sight Word Book

The number of sight words some children can memorize in a week, will take other children a month. One year I received a student mid-year who was behind the rest of the class. I succeeded in bringing him up to speed with decoding skills through the word key analysis exercises, but was unable to catch him up with sight word memorization. Flash cards were the standard tool, but they proved to be of limited use. This student practiced the sight word flash cards faithfully at school and at home. However, he still struggled to recognize sight words in context. I needed a different strategy.

Surprisingly, the answer came at a music workshop for primary students! The presenting teacher demonstrated how to teach children the words to a new song using sentence strips. All of a sudden the thought struck me that maybe sentence strips would work for memorizing sight words! I went home and began to create sentence strips with the sight words that had been introduced. I took the strips to class. The lesson was a hit! The children enjoyed cutting out and gluing down the sight words to create a sentence. They also liked illustrating their own books. It was a personal way for them to connect to the words and to place them in context. We reread the books multiple times per day and the strategy worked better than I had hoped! Later, I discovered research which corroborated this finding. (see sidebar)



### Research from National Reading Panel 2000:

**The meta-analysis of fourteen studies on repeated readings indicated the outcome was largest for word recognition (.55), next largest for fluency (.44) and lowest for comprehension (.35)**

#### NOTE:

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## Research: National Reading Panel 2000

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/nrp/smallbook.htm>

**Quote:** The meta-analysis of 14 studies on **repeated readings** indicated the **outcome was largest for word recognition** (.55), next largest for fluency (.44), and lowest for comprehension (.35).

- **Repeated Reading Sight Word Book**
- **Each day** students receive a **sentence strip** containing the **new sight word** presented in their Smart Start reading lesson.
- The **purpose** of the sentence strip is to practice sight words until they are memorized.
- The sentence strip words are in a mixed up order.
- Students cut up the words and glue them down to form a sentence.
- Next, they illustrate the sentence.
- After making a new page in their book, students reread all the old pages.
- This process of rereading helps students to memorize their sight words in a story context.