

# Word Boxes

Preparation: Find a box. A small shoebox works well – or help yourself to a Chinese food take out box!

Make sure you have notecards and a black marker.

With your child:

- Tell him or her that you are going to be collecting lots of words this year, and keeping them in a special box.
- He or she should think of three animals (or anything else that can be mapped onto speeds, like methods of transportation):
  - a very slow animal (for the words that he can read very slowly);
  - a medium fast animal (for the words that he's learning) and
  - a fast animal (for the words he knows "just like that.")



# Where Do the Words Come From?

## 1. Stack the deck with Instant Words Reading

the of and a to	or one had by words	will up other about out	number no way could people
in is you that it	but not what all were	many then them these so	my than first water been
he was for on are	we when you can said	some her would make like	called who all sit now
as with his they I	there use an each which	him into time has look	find long down day did

## 2. Collaborative Oral



# Collaborative Oral Reading

- Preview the Text AND tap background knowledge
- Tap Background Knowledge
- Ask child to *predict* coming events
- Identify what the child does right – and praise her!
- Give child time to work out problems on her own
- Encourage your student to monitor her own reading. “I like the way you corrected yourself!” “Did that make sense?”
- When your student makes a mistake:  
First – do nothing. Give her time to think about it!  
Second – provide a very brief prompt. Suggestions are provided on the handout, “Things You Might Say To Help Children Recognize the Words.”



Do NOT take up more than a minute on any given error during oral reading. This will disrupt your student's involvement in the book. If she still does not get the word, tell her what it is – and go on.

Write the word down on an index card and put it in the word box. Use it diagnostically. Why did this word stump your student? Think of other words like it – and add them to the box as well!