CARA
CONFIDENCE AROUND READING ANXIETY

7 Super Awesome Summer Reading Games! 😎

Water Balloon Letter Toss



Beachy Sand Spelling



Sight Word Sprinkler Run



Nature Treasure Tic-Tac-Toe



Beach Ball Spelling Toss



Popsicle Drip Writing



Outdoor Obstacle Course



Water Balloon Letter Toss

1. Stand 3-5 feet apart from your child (outside!), with a bucket of filled water balloons at each of your feet
2. Toss a water balloon to your child and say a letter name as you toss "Letter A! What sound does it make?"
3. Your child's job is to say the sound the letter makes as they throw the water balloon back to you! (use new water balloons as needed!)
4. After a few tosses like this, switch - you say the sound, your child comes up with the letter that makes it "I'm giving you the /f/ sound! What letter makes that sound?"
5. Once you've done 10 letters/sounds total, have an epic water balloon fight with whatever balloons are left in your buckets! "Ready, last letter, then 3-2-1- GO!"

Beachy Sand Spelling

1. Fill a tray or baking sheet with sand (collect some at the beach or use kinetic sand for easier clean up!)
2. Let your child add shells, figurines, seaweed snacks - whatever they'd like to create their own beach!
3. Give your child a word to spell - use sight words they're practicing or simple words they can sound out
4. Have your child use their finger to spell the word in the sand
5. Smooth out the sand and repeat! After 5-10 words, add a little water and let your child build a sandcastle!

Sight Word Sprinkler Run

1. Put on your bathing suits and set up a sprinkler in the backyard or park!
2. You say a sight word out loud or quickly show your child a sight word flashcard and have them "take a picture" of the letters using the "camera in their brain"
3. Your child then gets to run through the sprinkler and spell the word out loud as they go!
4. Repeat with 10 sight words and let your child (safely) try different jumps or spin moves as they go! FUN!

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Nature Treasure Tic-Tac-Toe

1. Next time you're outside or at the beach, let your child collect "treasure" - shiny shells, cool rocks, interesting leaves! You'll want at least 6 of each category
2. At home, decide if you'll play shells vs. rocks, etc and who's which
3. Draw a tic-tac-toe board on a whiteboard or piece of paper. Write one letter or sight word in each space
4. You and your child take turns saying the sound of the letter or reading the sight word to go in the space "I'm going to go on /oo/! Where are you going to go?"
5. First to three in a row wins! Clear the board and play again. Rematch!

Beach Ball Spelling Toss

1. Stand 6-8 feet apart from your child - in grass or sand, or even in a pool!
2. Toss a beach ball to your child and say a sight word as you do. "I'm giving you the word 'the'! What letters do you see?"
3. Your child spells the word, then throws the ball back
4. Switch! You spell the word aloud and they have to 'read' it "I'm giving you the letters t-h-e-y' - what word does it make?"
5. For extra fun, try this on one foot! Or set a goal and try to get 10 tosses in a row without dropping the ball!

Popsicle Drip Writing

1. Grab watercolor paper, oversized printer paper, or even a paper bag!
2. Let your child takes a few licks of their favorite popsicle (let them know they get a second BONUS popsicle when they're done!)
3. Once the popsicle is nice and juicy, let them use the popsicle to 'write' letters or sight words that you give them on the paper
4. No licking the popsicle once it's touched the paper! If you need more 'juice', a small cup of water will do the trick. Or do this outside for extra fast melting!
5. For extra fun, use different colored popsicles and let your child create a work of art at the end!

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Outdoor Obstacle Course 

1. Let your child place letter or sight word flashcards in an "obstacle course" in your backyard or in the park!
2. Over rocks, under tree branches, around the wood chip pile - they have to say the letter sounds or read the words to collect the cards as they go!
3. Or, let them set up an obstacle course for you! Make a few mistakes as you go and see if they catch you "I think this one says /sh/. Did I get it right?"
4. Next, you set up a new obstacle course for them. Have fun and stay safe!

Remember, there are 3 keys  to help your struggling reader:

Let it be SIMPLE
Let it be EASY
Let it be FUN! 

You've got this!

Cheering you on!

xo,

Cara

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