

# The Buster Shuffle

The Buster Shuffle is a quick and easy teaching strategy you can use to help a child learn new words on the *Word Lists*. It takes less than one minute.

When you start a new *Word List* you will want to find out which words the child already knows on this list. Do a **Pre-test**.

- Turn to the new *Word List*.
- Ask the child to read each word on the list.
- Circle the words he reads without hesitation.
- Tell the child he will get help to learn all of the words on this list one word at a time.
- This concludes the Pre-test.

During the next session, do the **Buster Shuffle**:

- Turn to the *Word List* page with the Post-it flag.
- Ask the child to start reading the words on the chart beginning with the first word in the first row. Immediately stop when you discover the first word the child does not read quickly and explain that this word is going to be the **Word of the Day**.
- Point to the **Word of the Day** and say "Today we are going to practice this word five times."
- You say the word and ask the child to say it.
- Now point to a circled word on the same list and have the child say that word.
- Go directly back to the **Word of the Day** and have the child read it. He may need your help to read it.
- Point to another circled word and ask the child to read that word.
- Go directly back to the **Word of the Day** and by now the child may be reading it without hesitation. If not, help him.
- Have the child read two more circled words and then return to the **Word of the Day**.
- Continue the shuffle until the child has read the **Word of the Day** five times.
- This concludes the session. Short, focused, effective.

Do not circle the **Word of the Day** during this session. Successfully performing the Buster Shuffle, reading the **Word of the Day** correctly five times, does not mean the child has committed the word to long term memory. If the child can read the word without hesitation during the next session, the word is circled. Most children need to practice a new word numerous times before they dominate it.

When the child can read every word on the list, without hesitation, celebrate by having a quiet certificate signing ceremony.