



Drill Sandwich:

The drill sandwich strategy is a way children can practice and learn new sight words, math facts, vocabulary, spelling words, or factual information by mixing what they know with what they need to learn. This method is typically more motivating to the learner, since out of a group of ten flashcards, seven are already known. This permits the brain to focus on only learning three new pieces of information, while reviewing known (often recently learned) material. The repetition of the known material assists with its storage into long-term memory. The following are steps to building a drill sandwich:

- 1.) Make or obtain a set of flashcards for the information to be learned.
- 2.) Go through the complete stack of cards once, separating the list into two piles - knowns and unknowns. (Hint: Cards are only knowns if the information is automatic. If the child/children have to think even for a few seconds, then the card should be placed in the unknown pile for more repetition of the information.)
- 3.) Build a “sandwich” using seven knowns and three unknowns. Be sure to follow the pattern below. (K = known; U = unknown)

(KKKUKKUKKU)

- 4.) Have the child/children practice identifying all ten items in the order above.
- 5.) As the unknown items are learned so that the response is immediate and automatic, move them into a known section of the sandwich by removing well-known knowns. Add new unknowns and begin/continue the study/learning process again.

Learning information in this manner is not only easy, but it’s fun, as well.

