Tic Tac Toe

Skills you can practice with this game:

- Letter names
- Letter formation (printing)
- High frequency words

How the game is played:

This game is played much like a traditional game of Tic Tac Toe, except that the X’s and O’s are replaced by the letters or high frequency words that children are learning.

You Will Need:

- For high frequency words: A list of the words that your child is learning in school. (Teachers sometimes refer to these as sight words).
- A Tic Tac Toe board (included at the end of these directions)
- A set of cards to print letters or words on
- Colored markers or other writing utensil (each player should have a different color)

Preparation:

Decide which letters or words you want to include in the game and print them on the cards or pieces of paper. These can be used as models for printing if needed by the child. If you are using the game to help your child learn letter names, you may want to use both upper and lower case versions of the letters.

Activity:

This game can be played in a few different ways, depending upon how many letters or words you want to include. To help your child learn the letter names and words, be sure that she names them as she is printing them on the Tic Tac Toe grid. So, for example, to practice the word ‘the,’ the child should say, "The, t-h-e, the." as she is printing it. Adults who are playing the game should do the same thing, both to provide a model and to provide the child with extra opportunities for practice.

**One letter or word.** To work on one letter or word, each player uses a different colored marker. On their turn, each player prints and names the letter or word. The first player to get three letters or words (of the same color) in a row is the winner.

**Two letters or words.** Each player prints and names a different letter or word when it is their turn. The first player to get three of the same letters or words in a row is the winner.

**Multiple letters or words.** Each player uses a different colored marker. On their turn, players choose from a set of cards and print and name the letter or word that they have chosen. The first player to get three different letters or words (of the same color) in a row is the winner. If the child is unsure of the letter or word that has been chosen, the adult should name it and have the child repeat it.

Suggestion: Blank Tic Tac Toe boards can be laminated and can be used with dry-erase markers.
TIC TAC TOE Game Board – Example with two letters

M

S

S

S

M

M

M
TIC TAC TOE Game Board – Blank