

Pink Words (Short Phonetic Words) For an Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

Children learn to read in a specific way in the Montessori environment. First, they learn to read phonetic words (think short sounds) that are no more than three sounds (letters). We label these as pink words. Secondly, they learn to blend more phonetic sounds in longer words (four or more sounds/letters). These are blue words. Then the child is introduced to our green series that highlight difficulties or phonograms (non-phonetic sounds).

Going for a walk, either in the neighbourhood or on a path, can be an enriching learning experience for a young child. Integrating a scavenger hunt can help your child engage, become more observant, and practice some reading! Here are lists of words, according to the reading level of your Casa child. Some of the words are more suited for a neighbourhood stroll and some are more suited for a nature walk. Note: this usually applies to second and third-year Casa students.

Make the length of your hunt dependent on your child's length of concentration. For example, 8-10 items might be challenging enough. Keep it fun. If they lose interest and don't finish, it's okay. If they need help reading, it's okay. Writing each word in a different colour can help your child identify the word with a hint, rather than pointing it out or reading it for them. And you can always invite your child to help write the words too! Happy hunting!

ant
bag
bin
bud
bug
bus
cat
cab
can
cop
dog
elm
egg
hat
jet
kid
log
man
mat
mud
pet
pod
pot
red
six
van