



How can you help your child with their reading?

- * **Encourage your child to read their book to you every day** but try to do so at a time when there are few other distractions and they are not too tired (a challenge after a long day at school!). Don't feel you need to read the entire book in one sitting; 5 or 10 minutes a day is ideal at this age.
- * **Always praise your child's efforts.** For a child to progress as a reader, he/she must feel confident and enjoy their reading. If your child makes a mistake, try not to pay much attention to that at this stage; we want to build confidence and enthusiasm.
- * **Don't worry if your child is not reading what it says on the page.** For many children, learning to read begins with looking at pictures and making up the stories. Or this might take the form of lots of guessing at words. Try to relax and enjoy hearing them tell you the story. At school, we are working on the more technical aspects of reading, including acquisition of phonics and developing blending skills. At home, make reading fun and enjoyable for your child. Even though it might feel frustrating for you to hear your child mispronounce words or tell the story incorrectly, you will be helping them develop their confidence to read, which is vital for their progression.
- * **Continue to share other stories together** to help your child develop a love of reading and stories. Make up stories together, tell them stories, read books at bedtime. All of these activities help engage your child in books.
- * **Don't think you can't tell your child difficult words.** If your child is struggling with a tricky word, it's fine to tell it to them. Use your common sense. If it's a word that you know he or she has come across before or could sound out or could guess from the pictures, encourage them to try to remember it, or to say the sounds, or to look at the picture for clues.
- * **Take it in turns** to read a page each. If you think your child is losing interest or struggling then take it turns to read a page each to reengage them in the story and keep the pace going.
- * **Help your child build up a vocabulary of sight words.** Phonic knowledge is vital, but the aim of learning to read is to eventually recognise words on sight, particularly irregular words. If you want, you can look at the top 100 high-frequency words and every now and again check that your child is slowly building up their sight vocabulary.



*** Talk about the book before and after reading.** Reading well is about far more than simply being able to decode words on a page. The best readers are able to recount stories accurately, make predictions about events or characters, draw inferences, relate texts to other stories they've read and to their own experiences. Therefore, discussion around a book is as important as actually reading it.

Before starting, ask your child to tell you what they see on its cover - "What do you think this book might be about?" "Why do you think that?"

Ask questions as your child reads (though not so frequently as to disrupt their flow!) - "What do you think will happen next?"