



Helping your child to read at home

Learning to read takes time. Decoding the text and being able to read the words on the page is only the first step. Children need time to understand what they are reading and to enjoy books.

Top tips:

- Try to hear your child read every day. Little and often is more beneficial than a long session once a week.
- Limit how long you are reading for - the amount of reading time should match your child's span of attention.
- Choose your timing carefully - it's best not to embark on a reading session when your child is tired.
- A bedtime story read by you or together is still the most valuable reading activity at home. Aim to model expression, voices, response to word layout or punctuation. Puzzle over events or actions together. Discuss the book together as partner story detectives!

Strategies to try at home

- Draw your child's attention to repeated words - encourage them to read them by sight, instead of sounding out.
 - Talk about the book with your child before reading - you could introduce any words to them you think they will struggle with.
- Sometimes read with your child (paired reading) or take it in turns to read a page.
- Encourage your child to read the sentence again to make sure it makes sense and to improve the expression.

Questions to ask before reading:

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story might be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (the blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

- What is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
 - What might happen next?
- How will the story end?
 - How could you describe him? (e.g. friendly, kind, mean etc.) Why?

At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage your child to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons.)
- What was your favourite part and why? What happened in the story?
- Why did that character do...(give an event or action in the story)?

