

SUPPORTING READING AT HOME

What tips can I use to help my child learn to read more confidently and fluently?

Tip 1 – Make Reading Fun

Reading aloud can be a lot of fun, not just for parents but for all family members.

Tip 2 – Read Every Day

Children love routine, and reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read with your child, you show him or her that reading is important and fun to do.

Try to read with your child as often as possible. It's the best thing you can do to help him or her learn at school! It also allows you to spend time together in an enjoyable way and to build a strong and healthy relationship.

Tip 3 – Set an Example

As a parent, you are your child's most important role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or information, he or she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.

You can also share many daily reading activities with your child. Here are some ideas:

- Read recipes, food labels, schedules, maps, instructions, and brochures.
- Read traffic signs and signs in stores and restaurants.
- Look up information in cookbooks, manuals, phone books, atlases, and dictionaries.
- Read greeting cards, letters, and e-mail messages to and from relatives and friends.

Tip 4 – Talk About Books

Talking about the books you read is just as important as reading them. Discussing a story or a book with your child helps your child understand it and connect it to his or her own experience of life. It also helps enrich your child's vocabulary with new words and phrases.

Tip 5 – Listen to your child read

As your child learns to read, listen to him or her read aloud. Reading to you gives your child a chance to practise and to improve his or her reading skills.

As you listen to your child, remember that your reactions are important. Above all, listen without interrupting. Be enthusiastic and praise your child as often as you can. If possible, be specific with your praise so that your child knows what he or she is doing well.

Tip 6 – Show that you value your child's efforts

Remember, your child needs to know that you value his or her efforts. Children learn to read over time, with lots of practice and support from parents and teachers. When reading with your child remember to.... Pause, Prompt and Praise.

PAUSE to help them work out the new words

PROMPT by using some of the techniques mentioned below

PRAISE them for trying whether they are right or wrong

DECODING STRATEGIES

It is important to use as many clues as possible to help your child when they encounter difficulty in reading a word. Below are the reading strategies we teach when tackling unfamiliar words. We call these decoding strategies:

Chunky Monkey

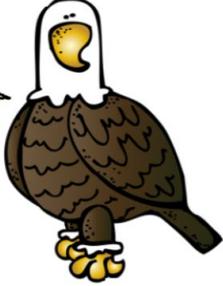
Chunk the word!



- Look for a chunk you know.
- Look for a word part.

Eagle Eye

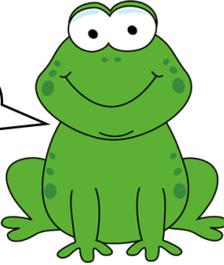
Look at the picture!



- Look at the picture for clues to help figure out the word.

Fred Talk Frog

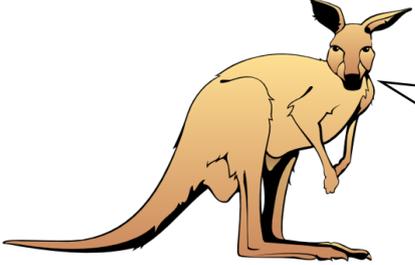
s-ou-n-d
it out!



- Use the sound buttons to sound out the word.
- Put the sounds together to figure out the word.

Skippy Kangaroo

skip it,
skip it!



- Skip the word. Read to the end of the sentence.
- Hop back and read it.

Tryin' Lion

Try it
again!



- Try to reread the sentence.
- Try a word that makes sense.

ASKING QUESTIONS

Talking about the book with your child will help your child in their enjoyment and understanding of the book. This bookmark could be used as a prompt to consider the types of questions that could be asked for KS2 learners:

Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 2

Before reading the book:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What might happen in the story?
- What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, horror.
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Who is the character you like least? Why?
- Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting.
- Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.

Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 2

At the end of the book:

- Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?
- Would you change any part of the story? How?
- Would you change any of the characters? How?
- Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion.
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
- Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her?
- Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?



Questions to ask children after reading that will help to develop their comprehension skills:

Children's understanding of what they have read is the key to success and enjoyment of reading. It allows children to challenge ideas, collect a wider range of vocabulary and become creative writers as they use the language they have acquired to improve their writing. Below are questions that you may ask your child after they have read. They are some basic question starters that will give you a starting point for the type of questions to ask your child about the book they are reading.

RETRIEVAL QUESTIONS

Retrieval and recall: early readers need to develop this skill, in order to locate important information and to retell stories and describe events.

Where does the story take place?

When did the story take place?

Can you describe the character's appearance?

Where do the characters live?

Who are the main characters?

What happened in the story?

Can you describe the problem in the story?

How would you solve it?

Can you identify words that describe the setting or character?

What happened after....?

Can you tell me why....?

Look at the picture of the character, how do you think they are feeling?

Why might this be?

Describe what happened at/when.

What do you think will happen next?

What did the character say to....?

INFERENCE QUESTIONS

Inference: reading between the lines. Encouraging children to make inferences based on clues in the text and their understanding of the context of the book will help them to develop this important skill.

What does the word ... imply/make you think of?

If you were going to interview/ask a character a question-who would you ask and what would your question be?

What do you think will happen because of?

Through whose eyes is the story told?

Why do you think ... feels...?

If this was you, what would you do next?

How have the characters changed during the story?

Predict what you think is going to happen next. What makes you think this?

How do you know that...?

What does the main character feel at this point in the story?

How do you know this- can you pick out a sentence?