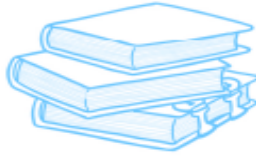


Top Tips

For Reading with Your Child at Home



As we all know, there is a lot more to reading than just reading! Here are some tips to help during reading sessions with your child at home.

- What is happening? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read the text. What can you see?
- Discuss the meaning of words. Use a dictionary to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.
- Discuss alternative words. For example, 'big'. Ask your child to think of another word that means the same, e.g. 'huge' (use a thesaurus).
- Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- Start at the end of the book. What do you think has happened before this point? Why do you think that?
- Discuss feelings. How do you think the characters are feeling? What has made them feel this way?
- Where is the story set? Have you read another story with the same setting? For example, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson are both set in the woods.
- Discuss the problem in the story. What has happened? What went wrong?
- Discuss the resolution. How was the problem solved? Is there another way it could have been resolved?
- Fact or fiction? Is this book a story book or a non-fiction book? How do you know?
- What have you learnt? What do you know now that you didn't know before reading the book?

During Reading

Encourage children to use expression when reading, especially for the voices of different characters.

Discuss the punctuation on the page, for example, exclamation marks. Ask: what are these for? What should you do when you see an exclamation mark?

You do not always have to read the entire book every night. Focus on 2 pages and talk about the characters, setting, and plot in a lot of detail. You might want to take it in turns to read so your child can hear how you read.

Parental comment ideas for

your child's reading record book

Listed below are some comments which may help you when writing in your child's **reading record book** to describe how your child has read to you at home. To build a realistic picture and encourage your child appropriately, it is essential for both parent and teacher to have an open and honest dialogue and as such, it is important to record both positive and developmental comments. The statements below are just a guide; please feel free to alter the wording and write what best suits your experiences. For more information, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

- Read familiar words independently.
- Able to predict what happens next in the text.
- Showed good understanding of the text
- Read with good expression.
- Worked out new words independently.
- Worked out new words by sounding them out.
- Discussed the story and characters well.
- Used good spoken expression
- Enjoyed reading this book a lot
- Self-corrected own errors independently
- Used the picture cues and the first sound of a word to work out words
- Read with fluency and expression

- Struggled to concentrate.
- He/she made a number of errors because he/she was not looking carefully enough
- Would not read tonight
- Self-corrected his/her own errors
- Found this book too hard to read
- Able to read this book with lots of help
- Struggled to work out a lot of the vocabulary
- Reading sounded robotic and stilted
- Created tension as he did not want to read
- Did not understand what he has read