

Guidelines for listening to children read.

Children should always work on a book they have heard or read before, when working with an unfamiliar adult or in an unfamiliar situation. Professor Marie Clay, who is acknowledged as the expert in children's early reading behaviours, says **85% of a child's reading should be easy, familiar reading**

I like reading to you when:

- We have a regular time that's right for both of us so you are not distracted.
- We talk about the book, its title and pictures, so I can find out what it's about.
- I can hold the book for myself and turn my own page.
- You DON'T cover up the pictures. They make the book fun, and they help me to decide which reading clues to use.
- You tell me when I'm doing a good job.

If I have trouble you can :

- Wait about 10 seconds before you interrupt. I might be thinking about it already
- Give me a clue for the meaning of the word
- Read the first part of the sentence back to me e.g. "The boy fell in the"
- Encourage me to read the first part of the sentence again
- Say "That's right" or "Good try" and then let me continue reading so I don't lose the plot.

When we have finished you can:

- Praise my efforts and my self-corrections such as, "I liked it when you went back and changed 'river' to 'water'. That was clever."
- Praise my efforts for trying to make my reading interesting for you, such as "I liked the way you used a squeaky voice for the mouse."
- Talk with me about our favourite parts of the story such as. "You obviously liked the part about ... Why?"
- Talk with me about what might have happened next ...
- Talk with me about the language in the book and new words I might have learned or not understood
- Say something nice that will make me want to read to you again

Of course, I want to remember the magic of the story **so don't ask me all these things at once**, just one or two so I can think about what I have read and what I have learned.

If we are not enjoying ourselves we can :

- stop and try again another time
- take turns at reading a page each, especially if the words are really hard
- let you read while I listen
- choose another book.