

Reading with your child

SOME IDEAS TO HELP

Read to them every day

- Just before they go to bed is a good time ... But not in front of the TV.
- Be enthusiastic about the story ... or choose another.
- Allow the child to choose whenever possible. Yes, they will often choose their favourite over and over again ... this is quite natural.
- If you try to change the story, or leave bits out they will tell you very quickly.



Before you read you may like to:

- Read through the story yourself first. (It's a big help if you know the story well ... it helps you to lead up to the exciting bits and encourage joining in). If you read with excitement and enthusiasm your child will soon begin to copy this.
- Decide good places to stop and ask; "***What do you think will happen next?***"

During the reading:

- Show your enjoyment ... laugh, smile, look scared, look sad, sound excited, etc.
- Run your finger along the line under the words as you read.
- Invite the child to turn the pages over ... you may need to guide their hand first.
- Talk about the pictures ... "***Can you see the wolf hiding?***"

Listening to children read ...

Difficulties or mistakes

If your child comes to a difficult word and stops, you may like to try *some* of the following ideas ...

- Ask them to look at the first letter of the word.
- Encourage sounding out each letter to build the word and blend the sounds together.
- Ask them to look at the picture for clues.
- Ask them to miss the word out and read to the end of the sentence. Then go back to the beginning of the sentence and make a guess. They could use the first letter of the word to help them.
- Ask them to look at any words they might know.
- Ask them to think about the story.
- Ask them to look for patterns in words e.g. *ing, ed*.

If they still do not know, then tell them the word. You can go back later to reread the tricky bit. **Try to keep the story flowing so you can both enjoy reading together.** It is more important for your child to know what the book is about, rather than read every word correctly.

Try to be positive and praise your child for their effort and achievement, even if they do not read the whole book fluently!

If your child becomes tired or disinterested in the reading, have a break. Remember, we aim to nurture a love of reading.

After reading:

- Talk about similar experiences your child might have had. **“Do**

you remember when you ...” “It’s just like when you ...”

- Talk about the story afterwards. *“Which bit funny when ...”*

If your child enjoyed the story:

- Read it again
- Find another in the series
- Find another by the same author
- Find another on the same topic



Books read to children can help enrich and extend their story ideas. Those children who are read to regularly, develop a positive attitude to and a love for reading.

This positive feel and love of books is a powerful incentive to children to learn to read for themselves ... which after all is what we really want.



A book is a dream that you hold in your hands