

Hints and Tips for listening to your child read

- When reading together at home try to make the time relaxed, enjoyable and positive.
- Before reading, talk about the cover, the title and the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about. This helps your child to pre-think about words that may come up in the text that is about to be read.
- During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point and predict what might happen next. Do not focus on the meaning of individual words, but talk about the plot, the characters and the events in the stories.
- After you've finished reading with your child, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures. There are often suggestions for discussion at the back of each reading book.
- When your child is reading and encounters words that are difficult for them, use the Three Ps technique 'Pause, Prompt, Praise' to support them.

Pause

When your child comes to a word they don't know, try not to jump in straight away. Wait and give your child time to work out the word. Your child is using their reading skills to decode the word and make sense of their reading.

Prompt

If your child successfully works out the problem word, suggest they go back to the beginning of the sentence and re-read it (to recap meaning) before reading on.

If your child has not worked out the problem word, prompt them with some quick, low-key suggestions. Say things like:

- "Look at the pictures."
- "Look at the sound the word begins with, and think about what may make sense here?"
- "Sound out the word."
- "Try reading on for a sentence or two, miss out the difficult word and see if that helps you to work it out."

If prompts like these are not working, simply tell your child the correct word.

Try not to spend too much time prompting, as your child will find it difficult to maintain the overall meaning of what they are reading.

Praise

Praise your child's reading efforts and successes.

Things to remember about reading

- The goal of reading is always to make sense of what is read.
- Try to be interested, supportive and enjoy reading time together.
- If your child does not want to read, do not force them. Persuasion may work, but making children read when they do not want to, can create a negative feeling about reading and prevent your child making good reading progression.
- Read with your child anywhere and at any time; don't forget that many everyday experiences provide opportunities to put reading and writing into action.