

Reading at Home

Here are a few 'top tips' for supporting your child when they start to bring reading books home.

Make reading a nice time for your child.

- Be excited to share the reading book that they have brought home.
- Talk about the book.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.

Give reading time importance.

- Find a good time of the day to read. When you are not too busy and your child can concentrate.
- Find a comfy spot away from distractions
- Turn the TV off / phone on silent.
- Ensure younger siblings are entertained for just a few minutes.

How to go about reading

- Look at the cover with your child, find and read the title.
- Predict what they think the book will be about.
- Look at the pictures first and talk about them.
- Then go back to the beginning and read the words.
- Encourage your child to sound the words out and then blend the sounds together.
- While your child is still sounding out most words they will need to reread the caption/sentence to understand what they are reading.
- Praise your child throughout.

When you have finished the book

- Discuss it, was it what your child predicted and expected?
- Did they enjoy the book?
- Can they remember the main events / characters in the book?
- Praise your child.
- Reread it. The idea is that your child will read their books several times over the week so that they become really familiar with the words and develop reading fluency.
- Write a short note in the reading record to let us know how your child got on with the book.

If your child is reluctant to read

- Set a timer, your child tries hard with their reading for a few minutes then you will do something of their choice afterwards.
- Read alternate pages.
- Read the book to them first, then your child can read to you.
- If there are high frequency words or letters that your child is unsure of, practice them with a game first (pairs, snap, blank board game, or just write them on a post it note) or find them all in the book / on that page first. This way they are not a surprise to catch your child out.
- Praise your child.