

1. Reading with your Child – some advice:

- Little and often
- Point to words and the lines being read
- Choose one of the aspects listed below to focus on. Focus on this aspect for a week then move to another skill.
- Take turns in reading – you read a bit and then ask your child to read a bit.

2. There are two aspects to teaching a child to read:

- **Technical skills** ~ We help children to decode the text, working out what each word or sentence 'says' and to use grammar and punctuation to help them read.
- **Understanding** ~ Children need to make sense of what they read. They should be able to talk about what they have read, understand what has happened in a story and predict the end!

3. Technical aspects of learning to read:

Help your child to:

- Correct their own mistakes as they are reading.
- Point at each word with a finger as they read it.
- Use a variety of ways in reading unfamiliar words:
 - Sound out the words using their phonics skills;
 - Identify tricky words that cannot be sounded out;
 - Use spelling patterns, looking at the endings or at other parts, e.g. 'ough' or 'ight' or 'ation';
 - Look at the prefixes or suffixes to help, e.g. 'sup' or 'ad' at the start or 'ed' or 'ing' at the end;
 - Miss the word out to find out what type of word it is;
 - Make a guess based on the context.

Recognise and respond to punctuation, especially full stops, question marks and exclamation marks.

4. Understanding what they are reading:

Help your child to:

- Make guesses and predictions about the story as they read further into it.
- Remember details of what happened, where and when and be able and willing to talk about these things.
- Discuss own likes and dislikes in relation to different books, giving a reason for their opinion.
- Identify the characters in a story, and say which of these is the main character.
- Recognise and say who is telling the story.
- Look for and find particular information in a non-fiction text, knowing that the 'Contents' page may help.
- Relate a story to their own experiences and be able to put themselves in the position of a character in a story.

5. Reading for pleasure

Help your child to:

- Give opinions about which books they like, and which they do not like. Help them to discover different genres.
- Recognise the style of a particular author.
- Notice and comment on features of different types of book, both fiction and non-fiction.
- Retell the main parts of a story in order.
- Identify the different characters in a story and talk about what they are like and why they act as they do.

- Ask your teacher for help with choosing books
- Use the school, mobile and local library.

6. Remember

- Fluent confident reading will take years of practice.
- Try to help your child to understand that reading is something we do for fun and not just at school.
- Comics, magazines and websites are also great ways for your child to get enjoyable reading practice.
- Let your child see you reading for enjoyment. It is true that children do as we do, not as we say.
- Read some of the same things that your child reads. It's nice to be able to talk to someone else about what we've read.
- Encourage your child to lend books or comics to friends and let him borrow them from others.
- Using the internet safely to read and learn about particular interests is a great way to practise reading.
- Create a special place for books and reading in your house a bookcase, bean bag, baskets of books etc



Reading to and with your child every day will make a huge difference to their progress with reading.