

Top Tips for Listening to Your Child Read



- **Reading Words**

Encourage your child to use their phonic knowledge to sound out new words whenever they can.

Say: *"Sound it out"*

Tricky Words: These are words that occur frequently in books, they are difficult to sound out and children need to be able to read them confidently and quickly. Play a matching pairs game every day to help your child learn the tricky words so they can read them fluently when they come across them in their book (please click on Tricky Words (Reception, Year 1, Year 2) for lists of the words to learn. When your child comes across a tricky word they are learning

Say: *"I think you know that word"*

"That is one of the words in your matching pairs game."

- **Matching what they say with the words on the page.**

When they first learn to read children will need to point to each word carefully as they read it. Once they understand what words are and can read some words independently then encourage your child to read with their eyes and not to point to the words with their finger as this slows down their reading.

Say: *"Read with your eyes"*

"Well done I like the way you are using your eyes to look carefully at the words"

- **Fluency**

Encourage your child to read fluently and make their reading sound like a story.

Say : *"Put the words together so it sounds like someone talking"*

"Make it sound like a story you would like to listen to"

- **Self-Monitoring**

Encourage your child to monitor their own reading to check it makes sense and looks right.

Say: *"I'm glad you stopped"* *"What did you notice?"* *"Go back and read that again"*

"Wow you checked to make sure it made sense and sounded right"

- **Understanding**

After they have read a book encourage your child to re-tell the main events, talk about the characters in the story and discuss why they acted as they did.

Ask them: *"Can you tell me what happened in that story?"* *"Why did x run away?"*

"How do you think x feels?"

Encourage your child to relate events in the story to those in their own lives.

Ask them: *"Have you ever been to a beach/forest/zoo?"*

"Tell me about when you were lost/happy/sad/scared."

- **Vocabulary**

Discuss the meaning of new and unusual words. Don't assume that if your child can read a word they understand what it means.