

Tips for reading with your child

<p>Before reading the book</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the title and look at the illustrations (pictures) on the front cover. • Read the blurb (the writing on the back of the book). • Do you think this is a fiction (story) or non-fiction (information) book? Why do you think that? • Fiction books: What do you think the story will be about? • Non-fiction books: Look at and talk about the contents page, glossary and index (if there is one)
<p>Reading aloud</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to read aloud with expression (using their voice as they read). Parents and carers can model this by reading some of the text aloud themselves. • Remind them to pay attention to the punctuation to help them read (e.g. exclamation marks show strong emotion) • If they struggle with a word, then encourage them to sound it out using their phonics.
<p>Reading for meaning</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children must be taught to expect what they read to make sense! If they read something that they don't understand or doesn't make sense then they should be encouraged to stop and use the strategies they have learnt. • Does what you just read make sense? Try reading that again. • Do you understand what that word means? What can we do when we read a word that we don't understand? • Can you work out what the word means by reading around it? (reading the sentences before and after the word)
<p>Making inferences</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children need to use the clues in the text to help them understand the story (to be reading detectives!). How do you think the character is feeling? How do you know? Why do you think the character did that? • They can use their own background knowledge and experience to help them. Have you ever been in a similar situation? How did you feel/ behave?
<p>Active Readers</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good readers are always trying to make sense of what they have read by asking themselves questions e.g. I wonder why that character did that. • They should also be encouraged to make predictions throughout the story. What do you think will happen next? Why? • Encourage them to visualise (see) the story in their heads using what they have read. What do you think the character-/setting looks like?
<p>After reading the book</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should be helped to summarise the main events in the story and to make connections with other stories they have read. • What happened in the story? What were the most important parts of the story? • What was your favourite part of the story? Why? • Who was your favourite/least favourite character? Why? • Did the story remind you of any others you have read? Why?