

Supporting Children with Reading at Home

Pause, Prompt, Praise

Where and When to Read?

- Choose a comfortable place where you won't be interrupted. Sit beside your child so you can both see the text.
- Choose the right time.
- Regular 15 minute sessions, 4 to 5 times a week would be ideal.

The Golden Rule:

- Reading should be enjoyable

How to Begin

- Talk about the title of the book.
- Discuss where the story takes place.
- Introduce the main characters.
- Introduce unfamiliar names or words that need explaining.
- Predict what the story will be about.
- If the story has already been introduced in an earlier session, ask ...
 - "What happened in our story yesterday?"
 - "What do you think will happen next?"

Pause

- When your child stops at a difficult word wait, for 5 seconds, for them to have an attempt at the word by themselves. It is important that they use their own strategies to work out the word.

Prompt

Choose from one of the following:

1. "Sound out the parts that you know" - look at the letters sounds/chunks/parts of the word e.g. ing st
Or
2. "Does that make sense?"
Or
3. "Does it look right?" - matching sounds to letters or chunks of words
Or
4. "Can you say it that way?" - roded/rode
Or
5. "Let's work it out together" - sounding out the word

Tell your child the word if it is getting too difficult.

Praise the Reading

Children need Encouragement

You can:

- * Praise when the child is partly right
e.g. "Good you've had a go at those sounds – it's a tricky word."
- * Praise when the child gets a word right after prompting
e.g. "Well done, you worked it out by yourself."
- * Praise for self-correction
e.g. "That's great how you fixed up your own mistake without any help."
- * Praise for correct reading
e.g. "Excellent, you read a whole sentence/paragraph/page without any mistakes."

At the end of the story spend a few minutes reviewing the story. You can see how well your child has understood the main ideas.