



# Reading Together



## How can you help your child at home?

Regular reading is vital to help children progress with their reading. Little and often is better than one or two long sessions.

Talking about reading is very important; especially if your child is a reluctant reader. Discussing a book helps to develop reading skills, concentrate on reading for enjoyment and grasping the meaning of the book rather than reading it word perfectly.

Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable, in a quiet space with the television turned off.

## Book Introduction

The aim of the book introduction is to familiarise your child with the book before they begin to read it.

Ways to do this could include:

- 📖 Read the title, talk about the type of book i.e. information or story, fiction or non fiction.
- 📖 Talks about the pictures; make predictions about what might happen.
- 📖 Find new and tricky words to decode before reading the book.
- 📖 Talk about unfamiliar words and names before starting to read.
- 📖 Read the blurb and looks for clues as to what the book may be about.



When you are listening to your child read it is important to offer specific praise related to the skills they are using.

Here are a few examples you could use:

- 📖 *'I liked the way you worked out that word using the letter sounds.'*
- 📖 *'You made a mistake and went back and changed it - well done!'*
- 📖 *'You remembered to point to each word.'*
- 📖 *'You made your voice sound just like an angry troll'*
- 📖 *'Well done, you have found the words that describe how the character feels.'*
- 📖 *'Brilliant, you have used the glossary to find what the word means.'*
- 📖 *'Great, you have taken a breath when you saw a full stop.'*
- 📖 *'I like the way you made your voice loud when you saw the exclamation mark.'*

At the end of the book it is important that your child is able to comprehend what they have read. You may want to try some of the following ideas:

- 📖 Talking about what they liked and disliked about the book.
- 📖 Discuss who the characters are, where the story is set and what happened.
- 📖 Find words in the text that describe the characters, both the way they look and how they behave.
- 📖 Let your child think of their own ending to the story.
- 📖 In non-fiction text ask your child to use the contents page or index to find the page that has information about lions/ tigers/ cats/ the Eiffel Tower.

Other activities to help support your child's reading that you might like to try are:

- 📖 Choose a sentence from the book, write it out and cut it up into words for your child to put back together again. Encourage your child to point to each word as they re-read the sentence to make sure it makes sense.
- 📖 Making key words from the text with magnetic letters or writing on whiteboards/paper, in the foam in the bath.
- 📖 Write a book review about the book to bring in to school to share with the rest of the class.
- 📖 Create a story map telling the story in pictures or words.
- 📖 Reading other books by the same author or on similar themes.