

Supporting Your Child with Reading

- Talk about the book –cover and picture. Ask them what they think the book will be about. Go through the book with them looking at the pictures.
- Read the book for them. *A child beginning reading should always be familiar with the book through the adult reading it for them before they go on to read it themselves.*
- Read again this time sharing the reading. **Make sure they put their finger under every word as they read.** Point out some full stops , commas, exclamation marks..... reading all the time with expression and intonation. When sharing the reading you can:
 - *1 read one page, they read the next*
 - *2They read inside the speech marks you read outside*
 - *3They read one half of the book and then tell you what happens in the other half.*
- Specific strategies to help your child while reading:
 1. Ask them ,” can you show me the small word in the big word?” (perhaps do it for them first).
 2. Ask them to show you words with certain endings...ed, ing etc
 3. When they’re stuck on a word say,” look at the first letter, now look across the word to the last letter and read on.” Go back and read it again. Does it make sense now. (Initially model this for them a number of times or as the need arises. It can however take some children a long time to get this).
 4. If they make a mistake in reading do not stop them. Wait until the end of the page. Now read what they said. Ask them, “does this sound right?” Ask them can they make it right? Use strategy no 3 above. If they still do not get it, tell them the correct word/phrase and get them to read the sentence correctly this time.
 5. If they self correct while reading, wait until they’ve finished the page then go back show them where they self corrected and praise them for doing it.

Its very important to constantly ask them to check that what they read makes sense. This develops good comprehension skills as well as reading fluency. It is very important also that when a child begins reading they put their finger under the beginning of every word as they read. As they develop reading fluency however this is not necessary.