



Hearing your child read...

How to make it a positive experience

General

- Always be positive
- Allow thinking time
- It is better to hear your child read little and often rather than all in one session
- Sit somewhere cosy and comfortable



When you are hearing your child read:

- Give praise and be supportive;
- Encourage your child to use a variety of clues when he/she hesitates over a word (e.g. picture, letter sounds/phonics, words before or after the word);
- Do not “rush in” if there is a chance your child will self-correct – give time; encourage your child to self-correct;
- Stop at certain points in the story for prediction – “What do you think is going to happen?”
- It is OK to tell the word, when appropriate (it is not cheating).

After you have read or shared the book

Can he/she:

- retell the events of the story in the order in which they happened?
- tell you about a favourite part or character?
- spot any repeated words, phrases or sentences?
- spot a particular letter string (e.g. words containing “ai”: rain, train, tail)?
- find high frequency words*?
- find words with the same beginning, end or middle sound?
- find words that rhyme with ...?

Suggested discussion starters:

- What would you have done differently if you had been the author?
- Tell me what you liked about the book.
- Tell me about books you have read which are similar to this one.
- How do you think the character feels?
- What is the character thinking?
- What would the character say if you asked...?

Do:

- say what **you** like about the book, what you found interesting, what made you laugh, anything that surprised you or how the book made you feel;
- talk about books you like reading;
- join in with rereading a character’s speech, adding appropriate expression.

*The words which occur most frequently in the English Language.