

Reading at Home - Tips

Here are a few tips on how reading at home might look:

Ensure your child has:

- access to books (this could be: magazines and newspapers from home, school and the library)
- somewhere quiet to read
- time to read regularly
- opportunity to see you as a reader - reading, choosing books, going to the library, talking about what you read
- read to them and take turns with them in reading a section each of the text, supporting and prompting their reading in positive ways



Getting started:

Read books regularly together (daily is great)

- talk about the parts you both enjoyed
- ask them to point to words they recognise
- talk with them about how words and illustrations work together in what they read (and when they don't)

- point out words in the world, for example, road signs, shop names, building names etc



Moving on:

Read books together, you could read a section in turn, and talk about:

- what happened
- how the pictures support the story (or not)
- which parts they liked best
- encourage them to decode unfamiliar words independently, but prompt them if they lose the gist of what they are reading



Starting to become fluent:

Engage with what they read by asking them to:

- predict what will happen next in the story
- describe their response when they know what does happen
- explain why a character behaves as they do

- point to particular parts of a text that they like or dislike
- talk about what a text suggest or implies

Help them to think about the writer behind the text, for example:

- why did they choose the language they did?
- why they organised the text in that way?
- what effect they hoped to have on the reader?
- when looking for information in print or on-screen, encourage them to scan ahead and think about how helpful the text is, whether it is a biased or reliable source



Fluent:

Encourage them to develop their own responses to a text in more detail, for example:

- ask them to tell you how their feelings towards a character changed at different points in a story
- keep an active interest in what they read by encouraging a wider reading diet, for

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*Remember you are your
child's first teacher*

- example, reading even more non-fiction, trying different authors and poets
- talk to them about why they might either trust or distrust the sources of information they read
 - Provide opportunities to include important literature from the past as well as contemporary fiction in their reading diet
 - encourage them to talk more formally about what they read, for example, through a book club
 - Talk to them about how themes or images relate to either the author's purpose or the effect on the audience
 - Challenge them in their choices of what they read and their interpretations

