

PROMPTS FOR READING

Here are some things you could try if your child:

1) Does not want to read -

- Use a "window" pointer to focus your child on individual words – learning to decode and understand words in isolation is as important as reading books fluently!
- Ask what are you finding tricky? / What do you know that will help you?

2) Sounds out every word -

- Remind your child to memorize words which occur frequently.
- Remind your child to try to read the sentence smoothly / quickly.
- Ask your child to try and remember a new word for tomorrow.
- Read a line of text and ask your child to repeat - model fluent and expressive reading.

3) Guesses words -

- Explain that it's ok to guess words when talking about the story from pictures or predicting the ending etc., but during reading your child needs to read every word carefully.
- Ask did you check the first letter? / Did what you read make sense?

4) Does not read accurately -

- Use the following prompts:

Try that again

You almost got it, try again

Where is the hard bit? Does it help? (isolating a digraph)

What could you check?

Look carefully and think what you know

Would the word you read start like this?

Do you think it looks like the word you read?

What do you know that would help you?



5) Does not blend sounds into words -

- Ask the child to sound out the same word repeatedly and quickly so they can hear it for themselves.
- Alternatively, sound out for the child and have them say the word.
- Look for digraphs in words, e.g. "sh-i-p", "K-i-pp-er", "ch-i-n".
- Use sound boxes.
- Ask your child whether they can hear this sound? (exaggerate/stretch the sound) / it sounds right? What sound does it make?

6) Does not read fluently –

- Read the first page or two to the child so they can tune in to your reading pace, intonation, phrasing and expression.
- Encourage your child to put words together, e.g. "here comes", "to the park", "come on".

7) Does not read for meaning:

- Ask does that make sense? / What would make sense?
- Ask your child some questions about what they have read – give them the opportunity to re-read a sentence / passage if they need to

Alternative ways to encourage your child as a reader:

- You found out what was wrong all by yourself.
- The way you thought hard to work out that word was impressive!
- You tried to think of that word. That was good.
- You stopped, checked and corrected yourself! Great work!
- Your reading sounded really good!
- You went back to the beginning of the line to check if it makes sense – well done!
- You read with great fluency / understanding / intonation.
- Excellent use of the punctuation p with fluency and expression.

