



Helping your child with reading

Here are some tips!

- Help the child use punctuation to make sense of the book.
- If appropriate, look at the pictures and discuss.
- Do discuss the vocabulary with the children – are there any words they don't understand?
- Do ask questions about what has happened and about the characters – how does he feel? How do you know? What do you think he will do next? Why do you think he did that?

What to do if a child is stuck

- Wait a bit (a few seconds is fine).
- Can they sound the word out? CAUTION – there are lots of words in our English language that can't be sounded out.
- Does the punctuation help?
- Can they leave the word out, read on and then go back to fill in the missing word?
- Can they guess from the context?
- Do the pictures help? (Please DO NOT cover up the pictures).
- Does the first letter or the first few letters help?
- If there are more than 5 words on a page that the child doesn't know (known as the 5 finger test) then the book is probably too hard and the child might need to change it. Help them find one that is more appropriate (This test is only a rough guide).
- The general rule for unknown words is 'Have a go', but if you feel that an unknown word is taking too long to decode and the child is struggling too much, supply the word. It is important that the overall reading experience remains an enjoyable one.
- Don't forget, if you have any concerns; leave a note for the teacher to sort out.