

## 10 Tips on Hearing Your Child Read



*As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child learn to read.*



*Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.*

### 1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with NO distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

### 2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If that happens, you read to them! *You will soon find they then want to take over!* If your child loses interest then do something else – don't make it a battle! You will probably find a time later that is more productive. Often, "I'll read a page, you read a page," works at keeping the interest and flow of the story and makes it so much more enjoyable, especially if you sometimes deliberately make a mistake and they spot it!

### 3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead, allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words and maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does attempt to 'sound out' the words, encourage the use of letter sounds.

### 4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with, that is fine. Don't say, "No. That's wrong," but "Let's read it together," and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

### 5. Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Until your child has built up their confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers. *Remember, 'Nothing succeeds like success'.*



### 6. Visit the library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly. It is a great source of wonderful books to borrow for FREE!

### 7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

On occasions when you cannot hear them read is there someone else in your home that could listen and support them? Even them reading to a younger sibling is very powerful! They could read by themselves, then tell you about the book, their favourite character, or the part of the story / picture they enjoyed most.

### 8. Have an audience

Is Gran or uncle visiting? Extended family, an elderly neighbour ... all love listening to a child read. Make the most of these opportunities!

Remember too, children will only see the value of reading if they see you read! Even reading your shopping list, is reading!

### 9. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to **understand** what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end; their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good **comprehension skills**.

### 10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, hard back books (use the local Library or charity shops, car-boot sales to source these) comics, theme-park maps, signs in shops and public places, magazines, poems and non-fiction (information) books.

