

PROMPTS FOR READING

If your child:

1) Does not want to read:

- Use a "window" pointer to focus the child on individual words - learning words in isolation is as important as reading books fluently!
- Ask the following questions:
Why did you stop?
Where can you look?
Where is the hard bit?

2) Sounds out every word:

- Remind the child to memorize words which occur frequently, say e.g.
You saw this word on the last page. What was it?
Read it all smoothly
Let's put this together
Can you read this quickly?
Can you remember this word for tomorrow?
- Read a line of text and ask the 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/predicting the ending etc., but during reading the child needs to read every word carefully.
- Ask the following questions to guide the child to self-correcting:
Did you check the first letter?
Did it match?
You made a mistake in this line. Can you find it?
You said... . Did it make sense?
How did you know it said...?

4) Does not read accurately:

- Use the following prompts:
Check till the end of the word
Try that again
Check it with your eyes. Did you get it right?
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 x start like this?
Do you think it looks like 'went'?
Look for something 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 the following questions:
Can you hear this sound? (exaggerate/stretch the sound)
Can you hear the last part of 'looking?'
Does that sound right to you?
What sound does it make?
What is its name?

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 the child by using the following prompts:
Read it like your favourite book
Make it sound like talking
Let's put these words together, e.g. "here comes", "to the park", "come on"

7) Does not read for meaning:

- Use the following prompts:
You said... Does that make sense?
What would make sense?
Try again and think what would make sense.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO PRAISE CHILDREN:

- ✓ I liked the way you were using your eyes.
- ✓ You found out what was wrong all by yourself.
- ✓ I liked the way you did it (e.g. thought hard to work out this word, searched your memory).
- ✓ You tried to think of that word. That was good.
- ✓ You stopped, checked and corrected yourself! Great thinking!
- ✓ It sounded really good!
- ✓ You went back to the beginning of the line to check if it makes sense.
- ✓ You solved the puzzle. How did you do that?