

Support for reading

Each section has ideas and questions to help you develop your child's reading skills and knowledge of books. Remember that reading together should be and enjoyable and fun time!

Before Reading:

- Look at the cover, the title and author's name. Have you read books by this author before?
- What do you think this book is about? If previously started, 'What has happened so far?'
- Read the blurb together.
- Do you think this book is fiction (made up) or non-fiction (information)?
- Ensure that your child knows where to start reading and that they read from left to right.
- Encourage your child to sound out words using their phonics. Words with e on the end are split digraphs: a_e, i_e, o_e, e_e and u_e.

During Reading:

- Can your child find any words that they already know?
- If your child is guessing words, get them to slow down and point to each word with their finger.
- Check that they are reading the words by asking 'Can you point to the word **the**'?
- What has happened so far? What will happen next in the story?
- What do you think the main character feels like? Why are they acting/speaking in a particular way?
- Does the story make sense?
- What voices could they use for different characters? Why?

After Reading:

- If part way through a book, 'What do you think will happen next?'
- Did you like or dislike the story? Why?
- What was your favourite part?
- What were the main events in the text? What happened at the beginning/middle/end?
- Did your feelings about any of the characters change?
- Which character was your favourite? Why?

All of the above questions ensure that your child has understood the story. Some children can be fantastic readers but have no idea what they have just read!