

Reading at home with your child

As young children learn to read it is important to encourage, support and praise their efforts. Our home reading program is based on the children bringing home one book each night and returning this book every day. If you don't get a chance to read at home, please send the book back to school anyway as we read with parents some days. The books your child will bring home are not intended to be difficult. The children should experience success and work on their reading skills that we have introduced at school. Listed are some things to remember as you enjoy books and stories at home together:

- Make a regular time to read each day (about 10 minutes) where there are no distractions. Ensure this is a stress-free, enjoyable experience
- Be excited about reading the book your child has selected (even if they have chosen the same book again)
- Before reading, look at the cover, title and pictures to predict what the book is about
- We have 3 ways of reading so you may like to ask your child which one they would like to do? You can vary this from night to night

Reading the pictures - look at the pictures and 'read' what they see. Often beginning readers tell a story by looking at the pictures. This is a valuable skill and makes for good discussion.

Reading the words – point to each word and read the words. It is still important to look at the pictures and check for understanding. If your child makes an error, allow them time to self-correct or read to the end of the page/book and go back to the difficult word to discuss it. Remember to praise their efforts, then show them the word. You could ask, will the picture help? does that sound right? what does the word start with? does it make sense?

Retelling the story – after the book has been read (you may like to read it to your child if they are reluctant) then the child retells the story in their own words. This can be done with the book closed or by looking over the pictures. Children can also draw a picture of what happened after they retell the story.

- Encourage your child to point to the words as he/she reads
- Ask your child to look closely at the pictures when reading to help work out what the words might be (please do not cover the pictures as this cross checking is an important skill when learning to read).
- Ask your child to check for understanding as they read. This means stopping often (close the book for a moment) and ask **who** is in the story and **what** has happened?
- Enjoy reading to your child as well as listening to them read. You are an important role model for your child
- Make reading fun!