

The Budding Speaker & Listener

How can you help at home?

- ◇ Give your child opportunities to tell you about things they have done recently and things they might like to do in the future.
- ◇ If they have lots of ideas, help them to connect them up.
- ◇ Encourage the use of the correct words for objects (thermometer – not ‘the thingy for heat’).
- ◇ Show some simple ways to sound more interesting, such as, using gestures or changing the tone and volume of voice.
- ◇ Be a patient listener but let them know when they are not making themselves clear and thus confusing you.
- ◇ Take any opportunities to start a discussion and keep it going by asking questions based on what the youngster has said.
- ◇ Encourage them to listen well and take turns in speaking.
- ◇ Model the way that discussion can be an enjoyable form of talking together if everyone’s views are respected.
- ◇ Make the most of any opportunities to talk about why people change the way they speak for various reasons.

The Budding Communicator

Tips on how to
progress on
Route 1 & 2
in reading, writing and
communicating and
how you can support
at home.



The Budding Reader...

How can you help at home?

Before reading, you can:

- ◇ talk about strategies they can use if they come across an unfamiliar word
- ◇ discuss what they can remember about what they read last time
- ◇ focus on what they do well, encouraging them to build on their strengths as readers.

During reading, you can:

encourage the reader to try a range of strategies when reading unfamiliar words. For example:

- ◇ sound out words
- ◇ use the rest of the sentence to help with a difficult word
- ◇ use other clues on the page to help read accurately
- ◇ reread the preceding words when stuck
- ◇ break down longer words to read them
- ◇ draw attention to the punctuation in the text and think about how it helps them to read, for example, 'it makes us stop because we've reached the end of the sentence' or 'the reader's voice goes up at the end because a question is being asked'
- ◇ read yourself: show them that reading has a purpose and is enjoyable.

After reading, you can:

- ◇ choose one or two words that they found difficult to read and practise different strategies for reading the word
- ◇ pick out an interesting word the writer used and make a note of the word and its meaning
- ◇ talk about what they liked and disliked in the text.

The Budding Writer

How can you help at home?

Before writing, you can:

- ◇ remind the writer of his/her writing target
- ◇ talk about the topic of the writing. Give the writer a chance to say what they think they should write. Ask questions that will help them clarify in their own minds the main things they will put down. Jot down for them some simple bullet points based on the discussion. Help the writer make a list of some words they might want to use in connection with this topic
- ◇ encourage the writer to get started. Budding writers may need plenty of encouragement, so show a lot of interest in the topic and confidence in their ability to do the task.

During writing, you can:

- ◇ remind the writer to use sentences with a capital letter to start and a full stop to finish
- ◇ check that the writer is keeping to the point and encourage them to ask themselves whether the sentence they are writing really belongs
- ◇ suggest, if necessary, that the writer could add more detail. Help the writer to think of more detail by asking questions. For instance: '*You've said that a car was coming down the road. What colour could it be? How fast is it going?*'

After writing, you can:

- ◇ use plenty of praise, focusing particularly on specific parts of the writing where the writer has made progress towards a target
- ◇ help the writer to check spelling. There may be quite a few errors so focus on mistakes in common single-syllable words such as *was, said, have, were, you, out*
- ◇ point out a particular sentence and praise it because it has some interesting detail in it.