



Key Stage 1 Top Tips For Hearing Your Child Read



"You are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping them to learn to read."

Before you start

- Choose a quiet time with no distractions
 - 10–15 minutes is usually long enough
 - Remember to make the experience **enjoyable**
 - Talk about the book first, especially if it's new
 - Talk about the cover and the pictures
 - Can they read the title?
 - Ask why they chose it and what they think it will be about
 - Discuss any unfamiliar names or tricky words before you start
 - Try not to be negative if your child gets something wrong—say “Let’s read it together and find out what happens”
 - Encourage your child to be an **independent reader** right from the start—let *them* turn the page and point to the words
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- *Re-read familiar books to boost confidence and encourage fluency*
 - *There is no need to change the book every day, especially if your child is not yet reading it fluently*

During reading

- Check that the text is at a suitable level—reading is not just about de-coding words, but about **fluency**, **expression** and **understanding**
 - Don't let your child struggle to read a book that's too hard, it could knock their confidence and make them reluctant to read
 - Use plenty of **praise** for your child's achievements and try not to criticise when they get something wrong
 - Maintain the flow of reading
 - Try not to interrupt to point out mistakes (make a note of the page and talk about it at the end)
 - If your child stumbles over a word or realises they have made a mistake, allow them some time to think about it and self-correct. They will enjoy the sense of achievement and you can praise their efforts
 - Encourage them to think of ways to solve a word eg. using their knowledge of **letters and sounds** (can they blend the sounds to make the word?)
 - Remember that pictures are an important part of reading—don't be tempted to cover them up
- *If your child loses interest then stop*

After reading — some ideas to try...

- Reading books often have ideas for questions or follow-up activities at the back
- Talk about the book and how your child felt about it
- It's important that they understand what they have read—try to ask a couple of questions to check
- Was there anything they **didn't** understand?
- Ask if they enjoyed the book
- Did they have a favourite part or character?
- Was the story happy/funny/exciting? Why?
- Have they read a similar story?
- Did they learn anything new? (*non-fiction)
- Be 'sound detectives' and try to spot letter sounds your child has been learning in school
- Did they notice any different punctuation or unusual features of the text (bold, large print, one word on a line...) Why is it like that?
- Sign the reading record when you have read with your child

Variety is important

*Remember that your child needs to experience a variety of reading materials, eg. Story books, comics, magazines, poems and information books. **JOIN THE LIBRARY***

If you have any concerns about your child's reading please talk to the class teacher.