



## INTRODUCING A NEW BOOK

A typical reading session using an unfamiliar book may look like this:

Look at the front cover and title, discuss the pictures and whether it is an information book or a story book.

Spend a couple of minutes looking through the pictures on each page, encourage your child to try and tell the story using the pictures (it doesn't matter if they are not right!).

Get your child to start reading by pointing to the letters (don't do the pointing for them!) and 'sounding out' the words. Make sure that they blend the word together after they have sounded out (for example), they should say 'v-e-t vet'). As this will be a relatively slow process at first, you may want to go back and re-read back to back to your child what they have already read to help them maintain the meaning. We teach the children that some words are 'tricky words' and simply have to be learned instead of sounded out (e.g. I, the, to, go, no).

For some children as little as four pages may be enough reading in one session, others may be reluctant to stop until the end, this will depend on the individual.

Encourage your child to talk about what they are reading and check that they understand what is happening throughout.

Finally, encourage your child to predict what they think may happen next (although they probably already know because of the pictures). Give lots of praise along the way and when they have finished tell them something they did really well (e.g. sounding out carefully, remembering tricky words, pointing to the words, discussing the story).

*I hope that this is helpful to you. If you are unsure of anything, please do not hesitate to ask.*

