



Top tips for parents supporting reading

Supporting and encouraging your child

Children can find reading a real challenge. They need encouragement, support and praise for their efforts. You can best support your child by:

1. Encouraging them to read on every possible occasion, praising their efforts and, importantly, letting them see/hear you reading whenever possible;
2. Playing word games with them, for example, I spy, Scrabble, Boggle and Find the Word puzzles;
3. Activities that relate reading to real life. For example get your child to read the shopping list.

Some reading strategies

There are many strategies that you can use to help your child become a confident and accurate reader. These include:

1. When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
2. When you come to a new word, take this opportunity to talk about it in interesting ways that your child will enjoy and learn from. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
3. Read a child's favorite book over and over again. This will provide positive reinforcement and your child will gain confidence as they are able to successfully recognize words.
4. Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
5. Set aside special reading time (and a special reading place). It will also help your child, especially reluctant readers, to think of reading as a normal scheduled daily activity.

Finally always encourage your child at having a go at reading words they are unsure of. This will give them a chance to try out reading strategies and to identify those that are useful. You can support this by trying the strategies outlined above and praise their efforts.