

Getting involved and supporting your children at home.

Until they are fluent readers, children will benefit from reading aloud to you as often as possible. They need to read and re-read their phonetically decodable reading books to become automatic in their reading. They need to recognise immediately both the phonic codes they have learned and practised at school, as well as those tricky, harder to read and spell words that do not follow the phonetic pattern- the children just need to know them by sight! We appreciate that your children might get bored of rereading their reading book so you can share reading with them their favourite books or introduce them to some new books. As well as their phonetically decodable book, your child will also bring home a library book that they will want to share with you.



When sharing a book with your child, take opportunities to talk about the book both before, during and after reading.

Before reading: Look at the front cover. What can they see? Can they point to the title? Can they point to the author or illustrator? Do they think it is going to be a storybook or an information book? Why? Can your child predict what is going to happen in the book or what they think the book is about?

During reading: support your child to decode the words in the text: sound them out, split or 'chunk' them into syllables, see if you can spot any prefixes or suffixes. Make sure that your child is listening to the words as they are reading to make sure that they are making sense. If they have had to do a lot of decoding in a sentence, model for them how to read the sentence more fluently and then ask them to have a go themselves! Have a 'meaning' check every now and then to make sure your child is understanding what they are reading.

After reading: Ask your child simple questions to see if they can recall the text or remember events from the story. What happened in the story? Who were the characters? What did they do? What did they look like?

You could draw a storymap together and orally retell the story or get them to draw their favourite character from the story and write or tell you words to describe the character.