

## Establishing a Positive Reading Routine



- Reading-time should be guided by a child's natural interests.
- Choose a quiet time and place for reading-time. Make sure there are no distractions and that the child knows they have your undivided attention.
- Make reading enjoyable for the child. Try not to pressurise them if they are reluctant or finding certain words difficult. If they lose interest, then take a break and pursue something else rather than forcing them to pay attention.
- Make sure to maintain the flow within a reading session. If the child mispronounces a word, avoid jumping in immediately. Instead, give them a chance to self-correct. It can be better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the reading flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If the child does attempt to sound out the word, encourage them to use the letter sounds rather than the letter names.
- Always be positive. Boost the child's confidence with constant praise.
- Ensure that the book is appropriate to the child's current reading level. Sometimes, through eagerness to quickly improve a child's reading ability, children are given books which are too difficult for them to read at their current level. Until the child has built up their confidence, it is better to stick with easier books. Struggling with a book which contains too many unknown words is frustrating for both parent and child and can have negative effects on their perception of reading as an enjoyable process.
- Talk about books with the child. Being able to understand what has been read is just as important as reading the words accurately. Talk about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story might end and their favourite part. This will give a good indication of whether or not the child has understood what they have read while also helping them to develop good comprehension skills.