

Reading Sessions with Younger Readers



During Reading Sessions with Younger Children:

- Always start a new book by looking through it with the child and talking about what the story might be about, looking at the cover, the contents page and the pictures. This will help the child by giving them a sense of what might be in the book before they start to read it. If children are prepared for some of the words they will read, they are helped to succeed from the start.
- Take it in turns to read once this initial walk-through the book is done! The child might want to read the book to others on their own and if it is not too difficult for them, this is fine. Taking turns however can also be fun and can increase the child's confidence. Keep the flow going and keep the child interested.
- Constantly and consistently encourage the child. Reading is a difficult skill to learn so encouragement is vital. Notice when the child has done well and tell them. It is also important to react positively when the child makes a mistake or starts to struggle.
- Give them time: see if they can work it out themselves before jumping in. They can be helped with the word to keep the flow of reading going. Do this if they have made a number of mistakes already and are getting frustrated and beginning to lose interest. Or, you can use simple prompts to help them when they get stuck such as encouraging them to sound the word out until they recognise it.





Tips for Struggling Younger Readers

- Play simple games like 'I Spy With My Little Eye' as these can help build a child's phonological awareness and phonic knowledge. Games with magnetic letters on the fridge can also be helpful.
- Make sure to support the child's self-esteem if they are struggling with their reading. If a child sees that their friends are reading well and they know that they are struggling, they will quickly jump to the distressing conclusion that they are falling behind, and are perhaps not as capable as other children in their class.

Children should be reminded that reading is hard work for everyone and that they have support to help them get better. Everyone is different and everyone learns in different ways.

- Try not to expect a child's performance to be consistent to begin with. They might read a word perfectly one day and be unable to remember it the next. This is normal; they must read and keep reading before they begin to recognise common words naturally and automatically. Tell a child that it is a matter of practice, and praise their effort.
- Keep reading to the child and listening to them read for as long as they are open to it.