



Reading with your child



Top Tips

1) Just  at the book together

- What is the title of the book? Tell your child.
- What do you think it is about? Have a chat.
- Read the blurb on the back to your child. This will give you a hook into the book.
- Look through the book together just looking at the pictures and chatting about them. (You may want to keep the end for a surprise!)
- The aim of all of this is to give your child an initial understanding of what the book might be about and using their previous knowledge about the subject. This will help with their confidence.

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Go away, little cat.

2) Now start looking at the words on the pages

- You quickly scan the words and decide which words **can be sounded out** and which ones are **tricky words**
eg. **The cat sat on the mat and said "Here I am!"**
- Encourage your child to sound out (segment) and then blend (snowball) the words back together – BUT only if it can be sounded out!
sh, sh-o sho, sho-p, shop **ch, ch-ur, chur, chur-ch, church**
- If your child knows the word by sight then don't worry about sounding out, just let them say it.
- If they struggle with the word then help them to sound out and blend the word.
- Always make sure your child says the actual word once they've done the sounding out and blending.
- If it is a tricky word and your child doesn't know it by sight, then tell them it is a tricky word and can't be sounded out and tell them the word. This will help with fluency and recognition.
- Once they've read the sentence to you, repeat it back to them so that they can hear what they've just read. Often your child will have concentrated so hard on working out each individual word that they have not taken in the sentence and its meaning.

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- 3) Your child does not need to read a whole book in one sitting. Keep the reading sessions short and enjoyable.
- 4) Read every day with your child. Little and often is the key.
- 5) Always have a book for bedtime that YOU read to them. It can be a book that they would not be able to read themselves as this helps your child learn new vocabulary. Research has shown that this will make your child a better writer as well as a good reader.
- 6) **Tricky words** – these are words that children just need to know and (usually) cannot be sounded out. Please practise the word sheets with your child, which can be found at the back of their yellow reading record. They need to learn these by sight. These words will help greatly with their fluency.

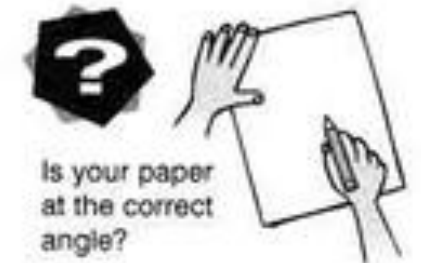


Handwriting

Top Tips

1) The 3Ps = position, posture and paper

- Make sure your child is sitting with their bottom at the back of the chair and both feet firmly on the floor (you can put some books or a box for them to rest their feet on if their feet don't touch the floor).
- Pencil grip is with thumb and first finger (Peter Pointer) holding the pencil and the pencil resting on the second finger (Toby Tall).
- The paper should be slightly angled to the left for right handers and the right for left handers with the other hand placed on top of the paper to keep it steady.





Handwriting

Top Tips

2) We are practising handwriting everyday with the children. Please find attached the letter formations that you can practise at home with your child.

3) Please note all lower case letters (continuous cursive) start ON THE LINE.

We are preparing them for Year 2 when they will learn to join their letters. Capital letters do not start on the line and do not join on to any other letters.

4) We teach the letters in a specific order as they are split into families based on how they are formed.

Straight lines : i l t

Curves: C a d g q o v e s

Tunnels: n m h b p u

Top Exit: r v w

Hooks and loops: j y f z k x



Handwriting

Top Tips

5) We use the website teachhandwriting.co.uk in school and would recommend you looking at it too.

Continuous cursive refiners, choice 1. They have a lot of useful tips and ideas too.

6) By the end of Year 1 children are now expected to be able to write all their lower case letters using continuous cursive script correctly and be able to form their capital letters correctly.