



Helping Your Child to Learn to Read

To prepare your child for reading:

- Sing songs and say nursery rhymes
- Read picture books together and talk about the story, asking your child to describe what they can see/predict/recall
- Help them to learn to recognise their own name
- Play games like 'Simon Says' or 'I Spy'
- Read stories with repeated phrases and encourage your child to fill in the missing words
- Clap out the syllables in words, especially new words
- Play rhyming games and make up silly sentences
- Talk about the initial sounds you can hear in words 'sssss-sock'
- Help me to begin to orally sound out words 'Where is h-a-t, hat?'
- Let your child see you reading and enjoying books

As your child begins to read:

- Play word or letter games together
- Talk about the meaning of new words
- Continue to read to your child and talk to them about the setting, characters, and plot
- Encourage your child to make predictions as they read, thinking about what might happen next
- Demonstrate using a 'story voice', using intonation and expression
- Encourage your child to sound out two or three letter words, and to blend these to decode the word
- Help your child to understand that letters have an alphabet name and a sound or sound(s)
- Capitalise on your everyday experiences, helping your child to identify and to read the words all around them, such as signs, menus, labels
- Share different kinds of books, including poetry and non-fiction



As your child's reading develops:

- Ask your child questions about the books they have read
- Continue to read to me, talking to me about the meanings of words and the events in a story
- Play games to help your child to recognise the 'tricky' common exception words
- Encourage your child to look for visual cues in pictures, to help them identify unfamiliar words
- Talk about how words in a sentence must make sense, and suggest other words that could be used instead, e.g. meadow or field
- Help your child to use their developing phonic knowledge to decode regular words
- Help them to learn the digraphs (two letter sounds) and trigraphs (three letter sounds) that will help them to read more complex words
- Encourage your child to look for syllables in longer words, and to use these when sounding out, e.g. gar-den-ing
- Allow your child opportunities to re-tell stories in their own words to check for understanding
- Chat to your child about what they have read, and contextualise anything they have read that is not within their own experience