

Reading With Your Child

You can help your children to read by reading with them if it is a positive experience. This is not always easy if your child has a reading difficulty. Your child's teacher will talk to you about how you can work with your child but the following tips may be of help.

- Try to be as relaxed as possible
- Try to find a place away from distractions and away from brothers/sisters close in age who might make comments/comparisons.
- Read the book the teacher has set even if it seems easy. The aim is to ensure success, build confidence, accuracy and fluency.
- Talk a little about the book before reading. "What will it be about?" (Clues in illustrations/summary etc.) If continuing a book, discuss what was read previously to establish context.
- Encourage beginner readers to tap out letter **sounds** especially for beginning of words.
- More advanced readers should be encouraged to break words into syllables.
- Supply irregular words if your child is having difficulty e.g. laugh
- Read along with your child in a low voice always leaving initiative with him/her (see leaflet on paired reading)
- Developing readers need to be listened to and supported to ensure accuracy and to encourage effort. Discuss what has been read. Ask child to predict what will happen next.
- Praise your child for effort. **Never** make comparisons with other children.
- If you or your child is very tired or stressed on any given day **take a break** and / or read to him.
- Do not be discouraged if progress is slow. It is progress. Rome wasn't built in a day.
- Do not push your child to read above his/her level.
- Consult your child's teacher if you have any concerns.