

Home Reading - Parent Guide

Reading quality literature with your child is one of the best things you can do to promote a love of reading. Home reading, however, is a little different to reading to your child. Some of the main purposes of asking students to read school 'readers' to you at home include;

- Allowing students to read texts that are at a level appropriate for them (not too easy, not too hard).
- To build the student's confidence about their reading ability.
- To support students to develop reading strategies.



Some things you can ask your child to do while reading include;

- Pointing to each word.
- Looking at the pictures to help them understand the book better.
- Looking at punctuation eg. "Point to the full stop" "Can you find a capital letter?" etc.
- Finding words that repeat on each page.
- Ask your child to retell what happened in the story.
- Get them to have a go, rather than relying on you for every word.
- Before reading, show them some tricky words in the story and tell them what they are.
- Read the same books several times to develop their self-confidence.

The most important thing about home reading is that you are making it a **positive** experience for your child. Rather than saying "You read that wrong", try praising your child for reading behaviours eg. "I like the way you read that again to see if it made sense" or "I like the way you had a go".

Some reading prompts you can use include;

- Were you right?
- Why did you stop?
- What did you notice?
- Try that again!
- Does that make sense?
- Can we say it that way?
- Does it look right?
- What's wrong with this? Repeat what the child has said.
- What else could you try?
- Do you know a word like that?
- Do you know a word that starts with those letters?
- I like the way you found out what was wrong all by yourself!
- Check! Does it look right and sound right?

