

How you can support your child with reading at home

- Read stories to your child as often as possible, so they can experience the joy and excitement that reading has to offer.
- When your child is ready to read his or her book to you, find a quiet cosy corner away from the hustle and bustle of home life.
- Make sure the time is right and you can both give all your attention to the reading. If it's left until just before bedtime, then your child may be too tired.
- Share the experience of the story e.g. if the book is called 'the picnic' - you could talk about the time your family went on a picnic and recall some of the experiences you had.
- Encourage the use of the 'magic finger' for pointing to each word. When the child becomes more confident in their reading, then it is removed. Give lots of positive praise throughout the reading. Praise him/her for their skills such as:



- a) looking at the picture
- b) thinking what word would make sense
- c) looking at initial letters or blends (i.e. do g) to help them in their predictions
- d) re-running to the beginning of the sentence and getting your mouth ready to say the first sound (i.e. look at the fl ag)



- If your child says a word that sounds right - e.g. The boy was in the *river* (with *river* being the child's response and *lake* being the correct word), praise them, because it does make sense. Ask your child, "If that was *river*, what would we see at the beginning of the word?" Your child would respond with "r". Point out to them that this word begins with an "l". Ask what other word beginning with "l" would make sense. By doing this they are cross-checking meaning and structure cues with visual cues.

- Look for words within word, that they already know e.g. it, sit, hit.



- The three key questions are:
 - a) Does it make sense?
 - b) Does it look right?
 - c) Does it sound right?

- If your child is really tired, then share the book with them.



Finally, always remember that reading should always be a pleasurable experience for the child and the parent.