

## Parents as Reading Partners

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### Prompting for fluent reading

- Make your reading sound like talking
- Read it all smoothly

### Prompting for detecting and correcting errors

- Did that sound right?
- Did it make sense?
- Did it look right?

### Prompting for problem solving words

- Get your mouth ready for the first sound
- Use the picture to help you?
- Look for a word you already know inside the word
- Look right through the word and say it slowly to check
- Try that again (repeat a word, phrase or line of text)

### Why model reading?

Modelling reading will allow your child to develop their fluency and confidence when reading aloud. Reading to your child as they follow can allow you to model good habits. They can listen to, for example, how you use expression to bring reading alive and see that punctuation marks affect how you read.

Echo reading is very similar but here you read a section and then your child echoes or repeats what you have read. They get the chance to practise using expression and pronouncing new words etc.

The most important aspect of being a reading partner is engaging with your child and experiencing a shared love for reading.



As a reading partner, you can be an excellent role model for your child. You can help them gain a better understanding of what they are reading by modelling good practice and asking questions about what they are reading.

### **What is fluency?**

Fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and expression. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to read fluently whether they are reading aloud or silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers read in phrases and add intonation appropriately. Better fluency leads to greater understanding.



### **Before Reading**

It might seem obvious, but it's important that both you and your child are comfortable and sitting side by side so that you can read together. Sitting your child on your **left hand side** allows you to easily access the book and support them. Start with a conversation about the front cover, the illustrations and what they already know about the subject matter. A bit of preparation will help your child get ready to read and understand what they are reading. If you are showing an interest in their story, they will feel more motivated to read.

### **During Reading**

Your child may be familiar with this book therefore they may be confident with the storyline however there will be times when they come across a difficulty. If your child makes a mistake or is unsure of a word, give them some time to problem solve (about four seconds). If they don't manage to work it out, tell them the word.

Encourage your child to repeat the word back to you.

If you feel the error has confused your child's understanding of the story, saying the phrase 'try that again' will prompt your child to return to beginning of the sentence in order to regain confidence and understanding.



### **After Reading**

Once your child has finished reading, you may want to ask them some questions about the text. Questions should be open, using words like 'who', 'what' and 'why' – this will help you to avoid short yes or no answers. Discussing interesting points, words or phrases within the story is another way of checking your child's understanding of the text. You may want to play 'fastest finger' to assess your child's recognition of words. Saying 'Point to the word...' is a quick and easy game you can play together. Using praise to highlight successful attempts at decoding/self correcting will give your child a greater sense of achievement.