



Reading is the **key** that unlocks many subjects in school and many chances in life.

Top Tips for Reading at Home

Fluent readers read with **speed, accuracy and meaningful expression** without thinking about it. This means that their brains are free to concentrate on understanding what they are reading.

1. Listen to your child read aloud as much as you can

This only needs to be for a short time - 5 minutes is fine but try to do this regularly. Silent reading will not improve fluency. Children need to practise hearing themselves read out loud.

2. Use 'Echo Reading'

Take it in turns to read the book. If you model how to use expression, your child will then be able to copy how you do it. You could even ask them to repeat the sentence that you have just read to see if they can read it in the same way. Character dialogue in books is a great way to practise expression and funny voices.

3. Vocabulary

Talk about what new words mean. It is really tricky to make sense of a sentence if there is a word in it that you don't understand. Encourage your child to stop and ask if they don't know what a word means.

5. Re-read

Reading can be hard work for children. If they have had to work out new words, they will start to lose the meaning of the sentence. Encourage them to re-read sentences to practise fluency and improve understanding.

4. Record 3 new words to practise again next time.

When faced with a new book, children will have to work out (decode) some new words. Encourage them to sound out the word in their head, then say the word aloud. Some tricky words will be impossible to sound out (e.g. come, once, was), so just tell them the word if this happens. Writing new words down and turning them into flashcards is a great way to keep practising until they are known off by heart. Fluent readers will read most words by just looking at them and recognising the word, so the more words that children know by sight, the better their reading will become.

6. Be a reading role model

Read aloud to your child. This will give them the chance to enjoy more complicated books. Also, when listening to you read, they will hear how fluent readers should sound. Audio books are also great for this.