



How can you help  
your child with their learning?



**Identify words that rhyme**  
Many songs and poems contain rhyming words. Draw your child's attention to words that rhyme.



**Make predictions about what they think will happen in a story**

Pause when reading with your child to talk briefly about what might happen next or further along in the story e.g. "What do you think will happen on the next page?"



**Show understanding of what they have read and talk to others about it**  
Read regularly at home and spend time chatting about the books you read. Encourage your child to tell you what the book was about, or if they liked a particular part.



## How can you help your child in Reception?



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"/p/"

**IMPORTANT**



Communication skills are key to development in all other areas. Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and help them be clear about whether they are talking about events that have already happened or are about to happen. It is tempting to finish children's sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators.

**Use 'sounding out' to read unfamiliar words**  
Children will begin to recognise some words by sight, such as 'the' and 'and'.

Use sounding out if the word is not recognised. Start by sounding out the first letter as this may be enough to 'unlock' the word.

Some words cannot be sounded out, these are tricky words. Children will need to learn to read these just by knowing what they say when they look at them.







fee, fi, fo, fum!



Join in with predictable phrases  
If sharing a book with a repeated phrase, encourage your child to join in; "Fe Fi Fo Fum!"



### Re-read if reading does not make sense

Children should expect to understand and get meaning from what they read. Ask your child to talk about what they have just read. If they cannot explain or seem to not understand a section, encourage them to read over it again and then recheck they have understood.

## How can you help your child in Year 1?



Pay attention to punctuation when reading  
Encourage children to pause at a full stop and raise their voice for a question. You could demonstrate this and then let your child re-read with expression.



### Talk about what characters are like and how your child knows

Ask your child to answer a question in role as a character from their book, "What do you think the Eddie might say to that?". Talk about their answers and link it to something that has been read in the book. "I think he'll be excited too - it says in the book that he loves going in picnics!"



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### Comment on the plot, characters and setting of a story

Give your child time to speak at some length about what they have read as this will give them the opportunity to practise their communication skills and explore the story.

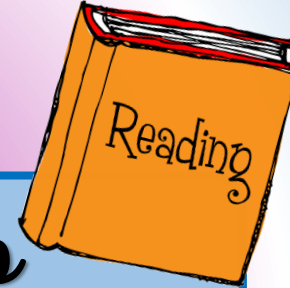


**Read aloud with expression.**  
Pause at full stops and commas and raising voice for questions or exclamations

Hear your child read regularly. It can be helpful to encourage them to re-read sections, the first to decode and second for meaning.



## How can you help your child in Year 2?



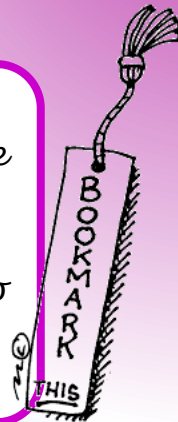
Use the contents (at the front) and index (at the back) of a book to find information

Children's home reading books often contain these features.



### Read ahead to help with fluency

If your child struggles to keep their place on a page, consider using a bookmark above rather than below the line they are reading. This can allow your child to glance down to the following line in a section of text and aid fluency.



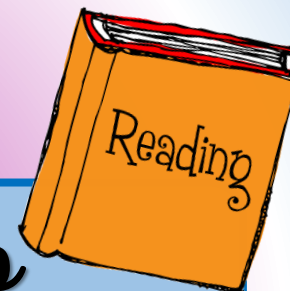
Communication skills are key to development in all other areas. Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and use full sentences that give enough information to the person listening, including being precise in the vocabulary they choose. It is tempting to finish children's sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators. Children in year two should be able to hold the attention of the person they speak to by including interesting details in what they say, for example when telling somebody about a day out.





**Comment on the author's use of particular words**

Draw your child's attention to words that are particularly interesting and encourage discussion of these words.



## How can you help your child in Year 3?



**To change their voice when reading inside inverted commas (speech marks)**

Encourage your child to read and reread to put expression into speech.



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**Comment on characters' thoughts, feelings and motives from their actions**  
Talk about the characters in a book and ask your child which part of a story gives information about a character's thoughts, feelings or motives. Encourage them to flick back in their story to the section they are referring to.





## KEY POINTS

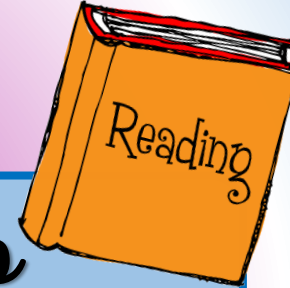
**To re-explain a text**  
Keep your child's focus by asking them to think of 5 main points from the book that they could tell you.



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## Give a personal point of view on a text

Encourage your child to express their opinions and justify them with reference to the text. They might compare what they are reading to another book and tell you which they preferred and why. They might compare characters within a story. Speaking clearly and justifying their ideas is key.



## How can you help your child in Year 4?

**IMPORTANT**

## Skim and scan for information in a text

As children look for information to help support their ideas they can scan over the pages to find a section they need







**Make notes to summarize what they have read**

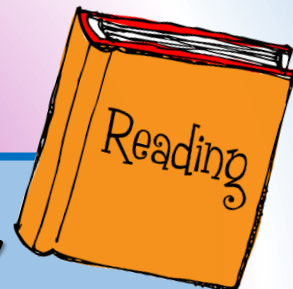
Help your child to identify key words and phrases in their reading. Practise writing short book reviews that give an overview of what has been read.



**Use more than one source when carrying out research**

During project work, help your child to find a range of information around their topic. By looking through the differences, they are building an understanding of different ways of presenting information.

## How can you help your child in Year 5?



**IMPORTANT**

**Understand that people use bias in persuasive writing**

Encourage children to think carefully about the purpose of a piece of writing or advert. Help them to identify that particular words and phrases have been chosen to persuade the reader to buy something.

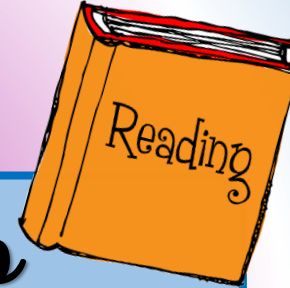


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### Skim and scan a text and use note-taking effectively

When reading online, encourage your child to take notes to help them summarize what they have read. They will need to skim through the information in order to get a sense of whether the website will be useful to them.



### Distinguish between fact and opinion

Discuss the difference between fact and opinion and encourage children to look for these, particularly in advertisements.



## How can you help your child in Year 6?

### Refer to the text to support opinions and predictions

When discussing their reading, ask your child to quote from the text. Ensure they pick a precise section that justifies their point, rather than simply re-reading the page.

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