

Listening to your Child Read



This video draws on advice from 'The reading framework: teaching the foundations of literacy' (Ofsted document) and Wolf M (2018). 'Reader, come home. The reading brain in a digital world.' www.somptingabbotts.com

Why is it important to listen to your child read?

Listening to your child read aloud at home will help to secure the reading skills they are learning in school. It will allow you to model what 'reading like reader' sounds like, and develop your child's own **speedy decoding** and **reading fluency**.

Making sure that children become engaged with reading from the beginning is one of the most important ways to make a difference to their life chances. For this to happen, children need to learn to read as **fluently as possible** and be **motivated to continue reading**.

Phonics and Reading

Phonics gives children the key to unlocking the alphabetic code needed reading. This is why a deep understanding of phonics for reading (and spelling) is vital.

Word reading and spelling are ‘reversible processes’. Reading involves blending sounds to say a whole word; spelling involves segmenting a whole word to identify the sounds in it.

At Killigrew, we use the ‘Read Write Inc’ approach for teaching phonics. To find out more about this programme, visit

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

Phonics and Reading

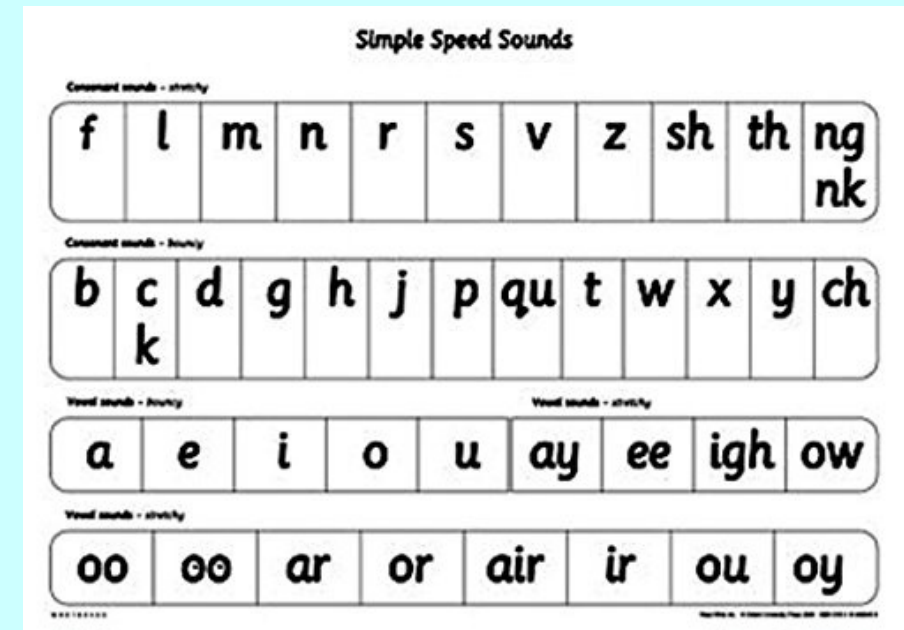
To **decode** words, children are taught to look at **graphemes** in written words from left to right and to say each corresponding **phoneme** in turn. Then they blend the phonemes to say the whole word.

Children:

1. see the written word 'cat'
2. say the corresponding three phonemes /k/ /a/ /t/
3. blend the three phonemes to say the word 'cat'.

Children:

1. see the written word 'sheep'
2. say the corresponding three phonemes /sh/ /ee/ /p/
3. blend the three phonemes to say the word 'sheep'.



Is the Book Right for my Child?

Your child will bring home reading books to **read for pleasure**. These books will be carefully matched to your child's reading ability so they should be able to read them without stopping too often to work out unknown words.

“But this book is too easy for my child.”

Try reading a book that you are even 90% confident with - can you understand or enjoy the excerpt?

*They sailed well and the old man [redacted] his hands in the salt water and tried to keep his head clear. There were high [redacted] clouds and enough [redacted] above them so that the old man knew the [redacted] would last all night. The old man looked at the fish [redacted] to make sure it was true. It was an hour before the first [redacted] hit him.**

“My child has read this book before.”

Children benefit enormously from re-reading as they learn the rhyming or predictable pattern of the text. Research has shown that repeated reading of familiar stories can increase vocabulary by up to 40%.

Is the Book Right for my Child?

If your child is struggling to read the book that has been sent home, let your child's teacher know so they can adjust the level.

One of the books sent home with your child will be the book they looked at with their teacher in class. This book will therefore be familiar to them. They will have **heard the book read aloud, looked at the 'tricky words' in the text and practised reading and re-reading for fluency.**

You can also support your child with this at home, by reading a new book aloud to your child first, looking for the words that they might find difficult and writing them down, or discussing together, then asking your child to read. Re-reading is so important to develop fluency, so keep going back to the same book during the week – Reading like a reader!

Tips to Support Reading with your Child

For under-7s, 10 minutes is usually long enough. Little and often is best.

If it's a new book, always start by having a look at the book's cover, title, pictures and characters. Read the book aloud to your child and look at the 'tricky words.'

When your child tries to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of phonetic letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'. So for 'cat' you'd say c-a-t; not CAT.

Don't pressurise if they are reluctant. If your child loses interest, then do something else and come back to it at a better time.

Maintain the flow. If your child mispronounces a word don't interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It's better to tell a child some unknown words or give clues from the pictures to keep things moving, rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. You can come back to these words during re-reading another time.

Tips to Support Reading with your Child

Use the pause, prompt, praise technique. If they make a mistake, pause for a few seconds to see if they self-correct, then prompt by asking: “Does that makes sense?” Or give the sound they’re struggling with, or help them sound it out. Then praise them for finishing the page or trying hard.

Be positive. Don’t correct every word if what they’re reading makes sense. Say they say ‘his dad’ and it says ‘his father’ – just carry on.

If your child says something nearly right to start with, that’s fine. Don't say “No, that's wrong,” but “Let's read it together”, and point to the words as you say them. Only help if they’re really stuck and boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.



Tips to Support Reading with your Child

Make sure the book is the right level to build up your child's confidence. Struggling with a book with lots of unknown words is pointless for your child. Flow gets lost and words can't be understood. You need to smooth their path because discouraged children can easily become reluctant readers.

Remember, there's more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters and ask them what was their favourite part. You'll then be able to see how well they've understood and help them develop better comprehension skills.

There is further information on oral comprehension in the video 'Reading with your Child.'

