



# Golden Rules



Getting the balance right between making reading fun AND keeping up regular short bursts of reading practice can be tricky at times. Here are some dos and don'ts to help you out.

- ✓ DO keep reading TO your child as well as listening to them. It will help them remember how interesting and enjoyable books are and will keep them motivated to read themselves.
- ✓ Do your best to stick to a ritual of ten minutes reading practice, most nights a week. It doesn't always have to be with a book—it could be a game such as looking for the letter 'p' around the house.
- ✗ DON'T point out every mistake your child is making. Children need encouragement and positive reinforcement to be confident and a confident child makes a better learner.
- ✓ DO praise your child's efforts, even if you think they are not trying their best. Learning to read is a tiring and lengthy business. It is really important to keep your child motivated.
- ✓ DO give your child opportunities to read things they already know by heart—jokes, song lyrics, birthday card messages or simple books for younger siblings.
- ✗ DON'T forget how important your input and attention is. Your time, little and often will help your child to WANT to read and understand how important you think reading is.

HELP YOUR CHILD WITH READING

Help your child with READING

YEAR 1



## Reading TO your child

Even though your child is starting to read on their own, it's just as important to keep reading to them —relaxed and settled with a cuddle and no pressure to perform. Learning to read can be a struggle and it is important to remember that books are fun and enjoyable. Bedtime stories remind us all of this.



## Practice at home

Your child brings home books to read and your support with this is vital. As with all new skills, like riding a bike or tying shoelaces, the more practice, the quicker you pick it up. If your child is not keen, perhaps start the story for them or read a page each. Aim for it to be a relaxed time and only for about ten minutes a day. Little and often is better than a few marathon sessions!

## Focus on meaning

When you read at home it is a great opportunity to focus on what a book is about. Talk about the pictures, what may happen next, the characters and how they feel. Link stories to other experiences they may have had—a programme or day trip or indeed another story.

## Words all around

When your child is learning a new sound or pattern, try turning it into a game. How many of those sounds, letter strings or words can they find on a cereal box? In family names? On signs as you go for a walk?



## Scrapbooks

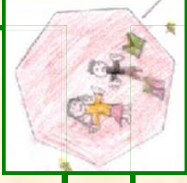
Why not pick something that interests your child, perhaps football or Disney princesses. If they cut out real football headlines or the titles of Disney films with pictures they will be practicing their reading skills without even knowing it!

**Your child will be able to do many of the following:**

- read some familiar and key words on sight
- blend sounds to decode some unfamiliar words
- recall some points from familiar texts
- notice some feature/aspect of familiar texts, for example, repetition, rhyme or how an illustration links to text
- make some basic inferences, for example, identify who is speaking in a story



READING IN YEAR 1



**How can you help your child make progress?**

- read books regularly together
- talk about the parts you both most enjoyed
- ask them to point to words they recognise
- talk with them about how words and illustrations work together in what they read
- point out words in the world, for example, road signs, shop names, building names.