Let's Focus on Reading

ENJOYMENT

CONFIDENCE

SELF-ESTEEM

MOTIVATION

ENTHUSIASM

What sort of texts might your child enjoy?

- Graphic novels, comics, cartoons
- Short stories, poems, plays or novels
- Newspapers and magazines
- Leaflets, booklets and reference material
- Appropriate websites and blogs

How can I help my child with reading at home?

Before Reading

- Find a special time to read together and talk about the text.
- Make sure that you are comfortable and sitting side by side.
- If you are reading something new, start by looking at the front cover, illustrations and blurb on the back cover. Try to predict what the story is going to be about. Ask questions such as*: I wonder if ...will happen? Who do you think will…?*

During Reading

- Start by reading aloud together**.** Encourage your child to read on his/her own or take it in turns to read.
- If your child is older, read silently together.
- Use the reading tools (Top Tips for Reading) to work out unknown words.
- If your child makes a mistake, give him/her about 4 seconds to put it right. Then say the word and ask them to repeat it back. Give plenty of praise for effort and make it fun!
- Every so often pause to ask questions, look at the illustrations and discuss interesting points or words in the text.
- Questions should be open, using words like '*who', 'what' and 'why'*.
- We call these questions HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills) questions. They avoid short yes or no answers.
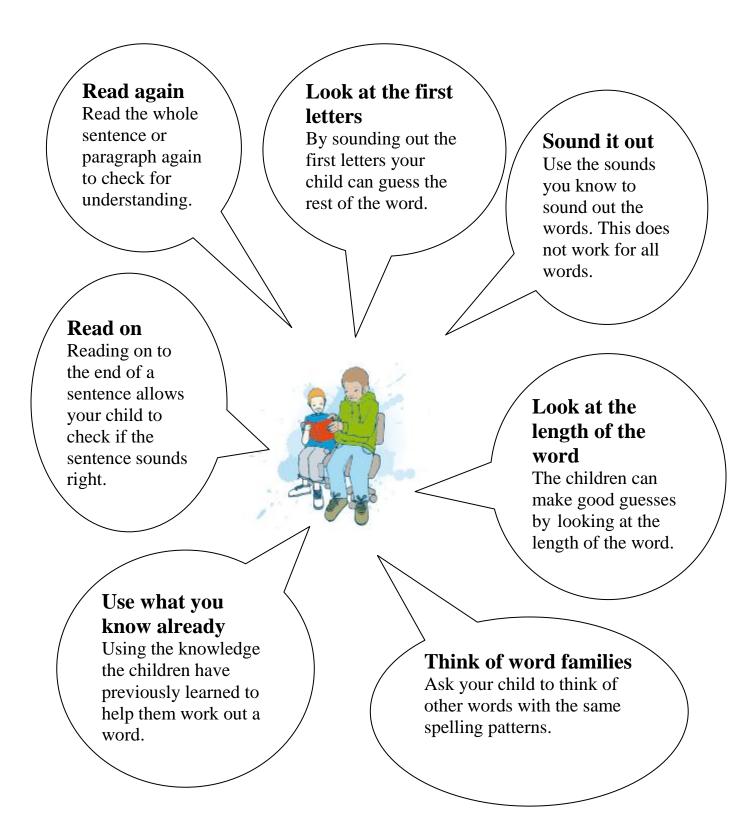
After Reading

When you have finished reading there are many fun things to do.

- Use the internet to find out about the author.
- Give the book marks out of 5 and say why you would or would not recommend it.
- Draw a picture or make models of the characters or setting.
- Look at some of the websites suggested and play some reading/spelling games.

Top Tips for Reading

Reading is a life skill. There are many strategies that can be used to help develop reading skills.

Read again
Read the whole sentence or paragraph again to check for understanding.

Look at the first letters
By sounding out the first letters your child can guess the rest of the word.

Sound it out
Use the sounds you know to sound out the words. This does not work for all words.

Read on
Reading on to the end of a sentence allows your child to check if the sentence sounds right.

Look at the length of the word
The children can make good guesses by looking at the length of the word.

Use what you know already
Using the knowledge the children have previously learned to help them work out a word.

Think of word families
Ask your child to think of other words with the same spelling patterns.

Useful Websites

www.starfall.com

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

www.jacquelinewilson.co.uk

www.gruffalo.com

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround