

How to help - supporting children with reading

Reading Fluency

- Reading aloud and have your child match his voice to yours
- Having your child practice reading the same list of words, phrase, or short passages several times
- Reminding your child to pause between sentences and phrases
- Read aloud to your child to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds.
- Give your child books with predictable vocabulary and clear rhythmic patterns so the child can "hear" the sound of fluent reading as he or she reads the book aloud.
- Listen to audiobooks; have the child follow along in the print copy.

Extending Vocabulary

- Engage your child in conversations every day. If possible, include new and interesting words in your conversation.
- Read to your child each day. When the book contains a new or interesting word, pause and define the word for your child.
- Help build word knowledge by classifying and grouping objects or pictures while naming them.
- Help build your child's understanding of language by playing verbal games and telling jokes and stories.
- Encourage your child to read on his own. The more children read, the more words they encounter and learn.

Phonological and Phonemic Awareness

- Help your child think of a number of words that start or end with the /m/ or /ch/ sound, or other sounds.
- Make up silly sentences with words that begin with the same sound, such as "Nobody was nice to Nancy's neighbour".
- Play simple rhyming or blending games with your child, such as taking turns coming up with words that rhyme (keep – jeep) or blending simple words (/d/, /o/, /g/ = dog).
- Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs.