

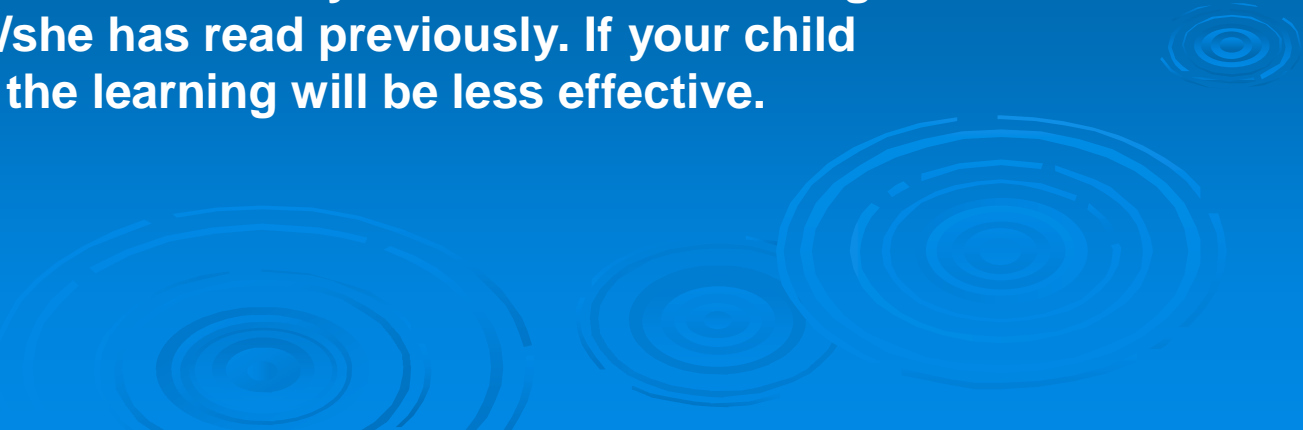
Helping your child to learn to read.

As parents you have an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read.
Here are some suggestions on how you can help at home:

Set aside ten to fifteen minutes a day.

- Regular practice reading with your child is important.
Little and often is better than a long drawn out session
- Try to pick a time when your child is not too tired, with no distractions and when you can give your undivided attention.
- It should be an enjoyable time for both of you. Try to sit together.
If your child is reluctant to read, start by reading to him/her from a book or comic of his/her choice. If they lose interest cut the session short

Success helps to prevent reluctant readers.

- **Make sure the book is not too difficult. Your child should be able to read 90-95% of the words in his instructional reading book.**
 - **Until your child has built up his or her confidence it is better to keep to easier books when reading for fun.**
 - **A struggling reader may well become a reluctant reader if the child is repeatedly given books that are too difficult.**
 - **If your child has a specific reading difficulty acknowledge the effort he/she has to make, praise any achievement, try not to show frustration or anxiety if he/she fails to recognise a familiar word he/she has read previously. If your child becomes anxious the learning will be less effective.**
- 

Listening to your child read as part of his/her homework

- Your child will most likely have a reading diary from school. Check this daily and sign it when you have finished. It is a good way to communicate with the teacher. It is important that your child knows that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.
- He/she must be actively engaged in the learning. Start by discussing the story so far, the pictures, the characters, what they think will happen next, how will the story end. This also helps develop understanding of what the story is about.

When your child comes to a word he/she doesn't know:

- 1. Go back to the start of the sentence.*
- 2. Try again. If the word is still unknown tell your child to substitute the word 'something' then read on to the end of the sentence.*
- 3. Now go back and put in a word that makes sense.*
- 4. Check the sounds in the word- 'sound it out'- to check that it is the right word.*
- 5. Give him/her the word if after a couple of attempts he/she has not been successful.*

This procedure will encourage reading for meaning.

- Try not to jump in too quickly to correct a mistake. Count to 10 to allow the child time to self correct or work it out.
- Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement .

Read more than the school reading book

- Learning to read from a range of reading material is important.
- Boys tend to prefer information/ factual books. Picture books, comics, magazines, recipes will provide variety of reading material.
- Read what is of interest to your child.
- Use the public library.

Go over the 5 steps to good reading regularly, and use these to make a positive comment on your child's reading.

There are 5 things we are looking for in good reading:

1. To be able to read the words accurately.

Ensure word walls, probes, key ring words, sight word lists are prepared. These aim to improve sight vocabulary. The more your child reads the more likely he/she is to have a good sight and spoken vocabulary.

2. Know how to work out a word you don't know.

Start the sentence again, read on then read back. Check that the word you put in makes sense. Know how to 'sound out' the word to check if you have the right word.

3. Read with expression.

4. Use the punctuation.

Stop at full stops, pause at commas. Use the speech marks to add expression.

5. Understand what you have read

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read.

A three way process involving child, home and school is vital for success.

