

Ideas for Supporting Reading

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Before you start

Try to find out whether the reading difficulties are:

- guessing words from the first letter(s)
- inability to track along the line of words
- letters seeming to move
- inability to concentrate for long
- not knowing the sounds groups of letters make (phonics)
- not matching meaning to words
- fear of failing

General Rules

- Keep it fun – don't put pressure on the child and don't expect too much too soon.
- Practise what they know first to improve confidence – this will help them feel good.
- Praise what is done well and comment on how they have done it. For example: 'Well done – you broke that word down really well.'
- Be ready to give help at the right time – don't let them panic and give hints to help, like: 'That word rhymes with...' or 'Sound out the first letter.'
- Before reading, talk about the picture, headings and titles.
- Stop when they have had enough.

How to help

- Find a quiet time to look at books together.
- Choose books that have a high interest level for the child.
- Encourage them to try to decode words (break them down).
- Praise them for attempting words, even if they are wrong. Always look for the things they can do, rather than the ones they cannot.
- Help the child when they get to a difficult word by reading the word with them. This will help them to focus on the story, and they won't forget what they have just read.
- Take turns reading – like a line or sentence each. This can help your child become more aware of sentence structure and punctuation.
- Act out the story as you read by using different voices and encourage

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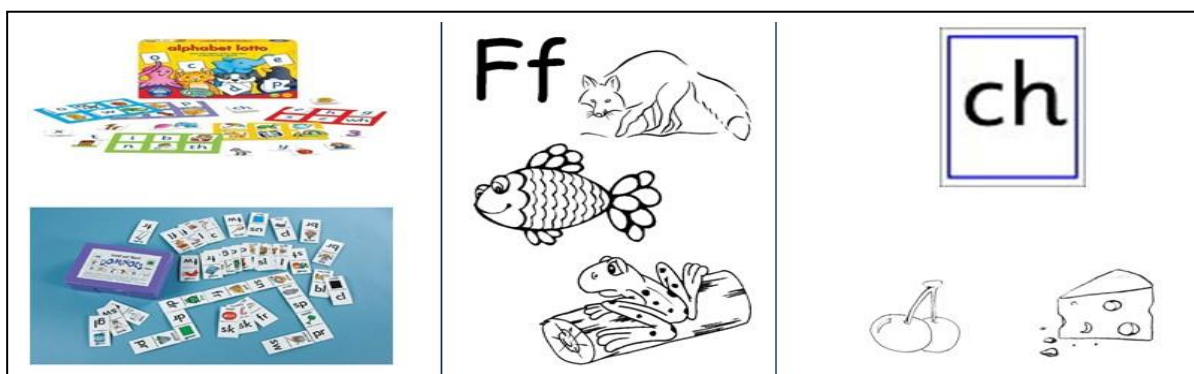


the child to do the same.

- Find a difficult word. You can do it too when it's your turn to encourage them.
- Buy some lower case letters made from plastic or foam, or make some from play dough. Play games with your child to help them match the letter symbol to the sound they hear.
- Talk about letter sounds rather than letter names with your child. Use 'a' like the first sound in 'apple' and not 'ay' like the name of it in ABC.
- Put letters on cardboard fish with a magnet, and fish for the sound you call out.
- Play 'knock-knock' when reading – your child can knock on the table when they read.



- Make or buy lotto sound bingo where your child must cover the letter they hear.
- Talk about how letters blend together to make other letters. Many children have difficulty with 'br' and 'bl' in words like brown and bring or black and blend. Some other blends to look out for are 'gr', 'gl', 'tr', 'sp', 'st' and also 'str', 'spr', and 'ch', 'sh' and 'th'.
- Make duplicate cards of difficult words and play snap or pairs to help with memory.
- Buy or make pictures or so that your child can match a picture of an apple with the letter 'a', or an umbrella with the letter 'u'. Develop the task by matching pictures to full words or encourage the child to use individual letters to create the full word.



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- Identify books with repetitive phrases, where your child can build their confidence by being able to predict when the phrase will next come up.
- Strengthen the meaning of the words by creating some fun sentences together. Eg 'Two tired tigers take a taxi to town.'

