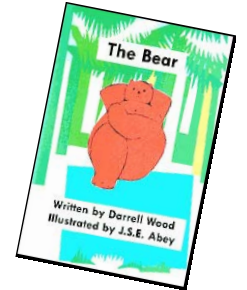


Helpful Hints

- **Little and often** ~ Better to do a little reading with your child everyday and to make it fun, than to make it a 'chore'. Five minutes is enough!
- **Point to each word** ~ We really need children to develop the habit of pointing with a finger to each word as they read it. It helps if you do this, and also encourage them to do it.
- **Take one!** ~ Choose one of the skills which are bullet-pointed inside this leaflet. Focus upon this particular skill for a week or more, so that you can be confident that your child has mastered this. Then you can move on to another skill.
- **Look around you** ~ Print is all around us, so help your child to spot and read words they know - and even letters they recognise - like their initials!
- **Comfort and cuddling** ~ It is SO important that your child likes books and stories, enjoys being read to and regards curling up with you to have a story as a comforting and happy time together. Learning to read will then be MUCH easier!

This leaflet is primarily aimed at parents of children aged 3-5 years old

GUIDELINES for reading with your child



There are two aspects to teaching a child to read:

- **Technical skills** ~ We help children to decode the text, working out what each word 'says', using grammar and punctuation.
- **Understanding** ~ It is no good if reading is simply 'barking at words' - saying each word in turn without understanding what the story is about. Children need to make sense of what they read.

In this leaflet we help you support BOTH these aspects when reading with your child.

Technical aspects of learning to read

Before we read

Help your child to:

- Hold the book the right way up and the correct way round.
- Realise that the printed words 'tell the story'.
- Understand that, in English, we read printed text from left to right and down the page.
- Begin to follow each line of printed text with a finger, left to right.
- Begin to spot some familiar words in the text, especially their own name!
- Understand that words are made up of letters, which can be sounded out.

Getting started

Help your child to:

- Hold the book correctly and turn pages for you as you finish reading each one.
- Realise that the printed words 'tell the story' and that the amount of text is related to the amount of story on that page.
- Understand that print is divided into individual words and phrases and is read left to right.
- Follow each line of printed text with a finger, left to right, with some attempts to point at individual words.
- Begin to sound out individual words.
- Spot some familiar words in the text, and recognise these on subsequent pages.

Meaning-making: making sense and understanding

Before we read

Help your child to:

- Identify where the story starts and ends.
- Have favourite books, and express opinions about these.
- Recognise a familiar story and tell you what happens.
- Know (and tell you!) if you have missed a page, or even missed part of the text when reading a familiar or favourite book to them.
- Recognise and enjoy stories by the same author.
- Enjoy sharing information books and finding specific facts that are of interest to them.

Getting started

Help your child to:

- Identify the title and author or illustrator and to know on which pages the story starts and ends.
- Know all or parts of a favourite story off by heart and be able to 'read' this story to themselves.
- Predict what will happen in a story.
- Say what they think about a character and about why they are doing or saying something.
- Expect the text to make sense and try re-reading to make sure they understand a sentence.
- Point to particular parts of a non-fiction text, e.g. in an information book, and talk about their most interesting facts!