

## Listening To Children Read

**Reading is not just about decoding letters, it involves all types of other language skills.**

- Let the child 'have a go' at words they can't read and use the surrounding words as clues. If they can't guess the word tell them - too many stoppages interrupt the flow and meaning of the text.
- As they reach the end of a couple of pages, take time to look at the pictures – ask questions related to the picture, or ask them to tell you about the picture.
- With younger children, get them to point to words beginning with 'ch', 'th', etc.
- Point out punctuation, full stops, commas, question marks, etc. Why are they used in that particular place? Encourage the child to pause after a full stop when they are reading. Point out capital letters – they are not only used after a full stop. Can they tell you other times capital letters are used?
- After reading a few pages, ask the child to tell you what has happened so far.
- Can they predict what may happen next?
- With older children, as they progress, they should be able to tell you something about the characters they are reading about – bring 'feelings' into this.  
"How did the character feel when such a thing happened?"  
"Why did he/she feel like that?"  
"How would they have felt if it had been them?"

- Can they find words similar in meaning that would fit just as well into the text?
- If you cover one word, can they guess it by reading the rest of the sentence?
- If the child is reading without expression, read to him/her for a couple of pages – can they hear the difference?
- As children read, ask them open-ended questions such as "Why did things happen that way?" or "What is the author trying to do here?"
- Teach children the structure of different types of reading material. For instance, stories usually have a problem, climax and a resolution to the problem. Informational texts may describe, compare and contrast, or present a sequence of events.
- Discuss the meaning of words as you go through the text. Target a few words for deeper teaching, really probing what those words mean and how they can be used.
- Encourage children to use and revisit targeted vocabulary words.
- Teach children how to make predictions and how to summarise.

**Only select one or two of the above suggestions at a time and jot down in the reading record what the child has achieved.**



Wombwell Park Street Primary School

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