Tips for Successful Home Reading

The purpose of Home reading is to gain meaning from print and ultimately enjoy reading.

Some tips for your shared book experience with your child:

* Be aware that your child has chosen the book and it may be difficult
* If the book is too difficult read it to your child first, or let your child use the pictures to make up the story
* Let your child sit close to you and allow your child to hold the book.
* Sit together in a quiet, comfortable place away from distractions and the T.V.
* Take the emphasis away from ‘correctness’ and place it on enjoyment
* Remember that sounding out is only useful for some words
* Remember don’t make your child think he/she is in a competition with others
* It is important to read silently and out aloud
* It is not necessary to change books daily, students may continue to read a book from the previous night or may choose to reread a book they have previously enjoyed.

A recipe for reading with your child:

* Talk about the front cover, title, the author, illustrator & relate to any personal experiences. *eg remember that time we went to the farm*
* Allow your child to preview the book and then talk together about the pictures or interesting words
* Let your child begin to read the book. If too difficult join in and read with or to your child.
* Use the prompting tips for working out a word or if the word read doesn’t make sense
* Discuss the story after the reading using the suggested questions.
* Praise your child. Tell your child how well he/she reads and how much you enjoyed listening

Prompting During Reading

Stuck on a word:

* Wait 5 seconds
* Tell the child the meaning of the word
* Ask the child to read the sentence
* Ask the child to reread the sentence put in blank and read on
* Look at the beginning of the unknown word. Reread the sentence putting in the beginning sound and read on
* Tell the child the word

The Mistake Doesn’t make Sense:

* Wait 5 seconds
* Ask the question – *Does that make sense? or Can you/we say that?*
* Ask the child to look closely at the word it means ………
* Ask the child to reread the sentence, put in blank and read on
* Look at the beginning of the unknown word. Reread the sentence putting in the beginning sound and read on
* Tell the child the word

The Mistake makes Sense

* Wait 5 seconds
* When the child finishes the sentence ask him/her to ‘Look closely at this word’
* Look at the beginning of the word
* Tell the child the word

After reading the text you could ask your child the following questions:

* Who were the characters? Which was your favourite? Why? How could you describe this character?
* Was there anything about the book you did not like?
* Could you re-read your favourite piece?
* Could you think of another ending?
* Did you come across any unusual words? Can you find them?
* Are there any words whose meaning you do not know?
* Can you retell what happened in the story?
* Did you enjoy reading the book? Why/Why not?

WHAT TO READ?

Don’t restrict your child’s reading to only books. Provide the chance to read other types of reading material such as:

* Magazines
* Comics
* Poetry Books
* Newspapers
* Internet websites

* Cooking Recipes
* Computer Adventure Games
* Letters
* Picture Books

* Diaries
* Reference material
* Atlases
* Maps (road maps, street directories)
* Instructions for games, machines etc.