

THE **DO**S OF READING WITH YOUR CHILD

- Make sure you spend lots of time **reading for enjoyment**- read to your child as well as have them read to you, and keep the sessions fun.
- Ensure you are **relaxed, interested and supportive** as this will in turn help your child to feel ok when they make mistakes or can't work out a word.
- Remember that the **goal of reading is to understand (make sense)** of what is read, so always keep this in mind when you are prompting or praising your child.
- Give your child **plenty of praise**. We want our kids to love to read!
- Keep the **sessions short** so that your child is not overwhelmed.
- Model **correct posture and strategies** as you read with your child.
- If they make an error, try not to jump in straight away and supply the correct word. Instead, **wait and give your child the time** to work it out. This will help them to not feel rushed or pressured.
- Encourage your child to **have a go at words** that they cannot read using the phonemic, contextual and picture clues.
- **Talk, talk, talk** → encourage your child to develop their comprehension skills by predicting, questioning and discussing characters and events. Relate the pictures and experiences in the book to your child's own experiences.
- Remember **some children take a while** for things to "click"- don't worry if their progress is slow to begin with or takes time! Every child learns at different rates.
- **Play word games** e.g. *can you think of other words that rhyme with cat? What other words start with 's'?*

THE **DON**T S OF READING WITH YOUR CHILD

- **Don't encourage guesswork.** Encourage your child to focus carefully on the sounds in words, rather than relying on guesswork or picture clues.
- **Don't make reading feel like a chore** or a pressured experience.
- **Don't encourage comparisons** with other children. Every child is on their own learning journey!
- Don't be afraid to **ask for help or advice.**

