

Home reading ideas

Here are some helpful hints that will support and reinforce students' learning in reading. Reading is more than simply saying the words on the page. It is about building understanding and making a connection to what the book is about. A way we help the students build this understanding is to ask questions before, during and after reading. Below are some examples of questions that might be useful as a guide. You do not need to ask all the questions all the time. Try 1 or 2 questions each reading session.

Before questions might include:

- What clues does the title give you?
- Who do you think the characters might be?
- Are you interested in reading this story? Why?
- What do you already know about this topic?
- Using the cover picture, what do you think will happen?
- Do you see any words you know?
- What predictions can you make?

During reading questions might include:

- Which character do you like the best so far? Why?
- Can you summarise the main idea so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What would you do next if you were the main character?
- Has the setting changed? Why has it changed?
- What is the problem in the story?
- How do you think the story will end?

After reading questions might include:

- How did the story make you feel? Why?
- What was your favourite part of the story?
- Who was the most important character in the story?
- Was your prediction about the story correct?
- How was the problem in the story solved?
- What connections can you make to the story?

When a child does not know a word and they ask for help, it is very tempting to simply tell them the answer. It may be helpful to instead to encourage the student to first attempt to sound it out. Perhaps ask-

“What sounds do you see in that word?”

We use a phonics-based approach to reading. Encourage your child to have a go and sound it out. If they are struggling you might like to model how to sound out the word e.g. the word “shop” could be sounded out “sh-o-p”, then blended back together as “shop”.

The most important thing is that your child develops a love of reading and learns that reading is a positive experience they can share with you. Look for books that might interest your child and inspire them to read!

