

Listening To Children Read

1. Find a comfortable place – e.g. a bed, a settee or an armchair so that reading is a pleasurable experience
2. Try to have a routine so reading is regular at home – ideally every night for 10-15 minutes
3. Even fluent readers need to read out loud – it is a completely different skill to reading in your head
4. If a child is stuck on a word, use clues to help:
 - a) sound out the word breaking it into letter sounds
 - b) use the pictures in the book
 - c) use context clues – the sense of the sentence/story
5. Build reading accuracy. If you stop to focus on a word, ask your child to reread the whole sentence to be sure that they understand the meaning of it
6. Develop your children's understanding of the text by always talking about what they have read. Some ideas for discussion:
 - a) what has happened in the story? (it is a good idea to recap each time they read)
 - b) what will happen next?
 - c) what do you think about... (character, plot, places)?
 - d) what new information have you found out? – encourage them to find out more
 - e) author technique – how he has developed plot, characters, atmosphere etc.
 - f) opinion – are they enjoying the story? why? why not?
7. Discuss vocabulary, particularly unfamiliar words – use synonyms to explain them, keep a word bank for new words and encourage their use in writing
8.
 - a) Encourage use of punctuation to read for meaning and expression
 - b) Encourage children to look ahead so they can read with expression. If they use a bookmark, put it above the line they are reading rather than below it
9. Develop expression by modeling – read a few pages to them, encourage a change of voice tone for dialogue, questions and emphasis
10. Get caught reading – set an example to your children! Discuss books with them; share a love of books and reading with them, visit the Library
11. Encourage a variety of reading materials – comics, newspapers, the Internet etc.
12. Encourage reading for a purpose –let them read wherever and whenever possible
13. Reread familiar books, Children need practice in reading comfortably with expression using books that they know
14. Encourage your child to complete a reading journal activity, particularly if they read books very quickly
15. Keep an eye on their reading. If they have had a book for more than 3 weeks, suggest that they may want to change the book or that they may want to read more regularly for longer
16. Encourage them to complete books by choosing carefully, checking it is the right level (e.g. by reading the first page), and persevering (they should read at least a quarter of the book before deciding it is not for them).

Helping Children To Spell

1. Children are given regular spellings to practise in their yellow spelling notebook. They may be common misspellings, words patterns or key words.
2. It is more effective for children to retain words if they practise for 5-10 minutes each day
3. The most effective way to learn is the L.C.W.C (Learn Cover Write Check) method:
 - a) The child **looks** at the word (noticing syllables, letter sounds, letter patterns, silent letters etc.)
 - b) The child **covers** the word up
 - c) The child **writes** the word
 - d) The child **checks** the word is spelt correctlyThe process is repeated several times until the child is confident they can spell the word
4. Children will need to revisit words learnt and use them to reinforce their spelling
5. Key words are in school journals for reference and practice
6. For words that the child finds difficult to learn, you can help by practising them every day, by playing word games or by posting the correct spelling up on the wall etc.
7. Play spelling games or word games at home
8. Use listening to your child read as an opportunity to discuss spelling, patterns, rhymes etc.
9. Use mnemonics to help remember different words:
e.g. necessary = one **c**ollar, two **s**leeves on a shirt
e.g. because = **b**ig **e**lephants **c**an't **a**lways **u**se **s**mall **e**xits
10. Keep a personal spelling dictionary of words that your child finds difficult to spell
11. Help them to use a dictionary to locate words

Reedings Junior School

Guide for Parents. Helping your child at home with reading and spelling

