

# BLACKWELL PUBLIC SCHOOL

## HELPING MY CHILD WITH READING



Don't string the process out for too long. If you do, the meaning of the text will be lost and the child will have less chance of working it out. If you find that your child cannot read many of the words in the book by themselves, it may be that this is a book you should read together.

You might struggle to think up new comments to write each day about your child's reading. Don't feel that your comments have to be long. The comments could be directed to the teacher or to your child. Here are some ideas:

- We read this book together. Charlie loved the illustrations.
- Lexie's expression was fantastic.
- We discussed
- 'to' and 'too' after reading this book.
- Sarah read confidently. Great job.
- Reading on helped Patrick with 'doctor'. Fantastic!
- Your reading is getting better every day Rachel.
- Continue to set aside quiet time for reading.
- Reassure your child that it is OK to read part of a longer book; you don't need to read the whole book in one session.
- Continue to talk about the books, making comparisons with other stories or non-fiction books and authors.
- Encourage your child to read more books by authors they like and also to try new types of books.
- Ask your child to re-tell part of the story.
- Ask your child to describe one of the characters.



Children may have a little difficulty reading their take-home reading books, especially when they are very inexperienced. You might help them by:

- Leafing through the book and talking about the pictures before reading the book together. This helps your child get ready for what they will come across as they read.
- Asking your child to let you know when they need help.
- Varying how the reading session works. Sometimes you might read the book to your child first and then have your child read it to you.
- Being patient and understanding. Learning to read is a very complex task. It takes time.
- Giving your child time to work it out by themselves. (Reading is often about solving problems. Some carers find that it helps if they silently count to 10 before offering any help. Many children just need a little time.)
- Encouraging your child to have a go. You should say: *What could go there? What would make sense?*





You can make the following suggestions when your child is having trouble working out words.

- *Look at the illustrations.* Children can use the illustrations to help them work out the words on each page before they start reading and also when they come across an unfamiliar word.
- *What do you think the word might be? What would sound right there?*
- *Look at the first letter. Can you start to say it?*
- *Do you know another word that looks like it? For example, they may know 'ball' looks like 'call'.*
- *Keep reading and we can go back to it. Reading on to the end of the sentence for the meaning then going back can often help with difficult words.*

If your child has read a word incorrectly, praise their attempt and ask them to re-read the phrase or sentence to check if they think it is right. Try to have them self-correct. Does it make sense? Does it look right? Work through some of the above strategies again.





## OTHER THINGS TO DO AT HOME TO HELP YOUR CHILD'S READING AND WRITING

- Read to your child each day, even as they turn 6, 7, 8 years old. Ten minutes a day will make a difference.
- Talk about the books as you read them. Point out interesting words and illustrations. Invite your child to predict what the story will be.
- Encourage your child to read other books by favourite authors and illustrators.
- As your child becomes an independent reader, encourage them to read to younger brothers and sisters, cousins and friends.
- Let your child see you reading and enjoying it.
- Listen to recorded stories and poems and songs on CD at home and on trips in the car.
- Have your child help you write shopping lists, greeting cards, postcards and phone messages.
- Many newspapers and magazines have children's sections. Give these to your child to read while you are reading the other sections.
- Point out and read street signs as you are driving.
- Point out and read labels on food and other items at home or when shopping.
- Visit your local library and local bookshop.
- Show your child how calendars work and use them to count down to important days.
- Play word games together.
- Buy books and word games as presents.
- Play computer games that focus on stories and words.

