

SUPPORTING THE INITIAL STAGES OF READING DEVELOPMENT

WHAT CAN A PARENT DO TO HELP AT HOME?

- Try to choose a quiet time every night with your child, and make yourselves comfortable
- Let your child hold the book
- Point to the words as you read them
- Use the pictures as well; there is often an additional story in them
- Allow plenty of time for discussion before you turn over a page. A valuable question is:
"What do you think will happen next?"
- Let your child read the story to you afterwards, even if this is reciting by heart, or making the story up from the pictures. This is a very important stage.
- Memorising is not cheating. Make reading fun!
- Children learn to behave like readers by these activities. Praise all their attempts
- If your child is too tired or reluctant to join in, just make it an opportunity for you to read in a relaxed and enjoyable way.

HELPING YOUR CHILD READ A WORD...

- Which letter phonemes do you recognise? Can you blend them together?
- Does the word make sense? Read the sentence again to check.
- Is there another word that would make sense?
- Is it a word you know?
- Have you read the word before? Is it on another page?
- Are there any bits of the word you recognise?
- Miss out the word, say 'mmm', finish the sentence. Then go back and work out what the word was.
- In a rhyming book, think of a word that rhymes.
- Use the first 1 or 2 sounds with another strategy

Always go back and read the sentence again!