



Top Tips for Home Reading

1. **Create good habits** - Try to get in the habit of listening to your child read every day. Choose a quiet, undistracted time and snuggle up.
2. **Little and often** - For under-7s, 5 - 10 minutes is usually long enough.
3. **Explore the book together** - If it's a new book, always start by having a look at the book's cover, title, pictures and characters.
4. **Reminders about phonics** - When your child tries to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of phonetic letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'. If you're not sure <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc> will help.
5. **No pressure** - Don't pressurise if your child is reluctant. If they lose interest, then do something else and come back to it at a better time.
6. **Flow of reading** - Maintain the flow. If your child mispronounces a word don't interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It's better to tell a child some unknown words or give clues from the pictures to keep things moving rather than insisting on their trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters.
7. **Pause, prompt and praise.** If they make a mistake, *pause* for a few seconds to see if they self-correct, then *prompt* by asking: "Does that makes sense?" Or give the sound they're struggling with, or help them sound it out. Then *praise* them for finishing the page or trying hard.
8. **Positivity** - If your child makes a mistake, don't say, "No, that's wrong." Instead say, "Let's read it together", and point to the words as you say them. Only help if they're really stuck and boost your child's confidence with lots of praise for even the smallest achievement.
9. **Talk about it** - Remember, there's more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters and ask them what was their favourite part. You'll then be able to see how well they've understood and help them develop better comprehension skills.
10. **Be a good role model** – If your child sees you reading and getting enjoyment from it, they are more likely to value develop a desire to read themselves.