



# Tips for Parents

23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020

## Choosing the Right Book

- Choose books that match your child's likes and interests.
- Use the five finger rule. Open the book to any page and ask your child to read. Put up a finger every time your child does not know a word. If you have put up more than five fingers before the end of the page, this book is too hard for your child.

## Reading to your Child

### **Don't underestimate the value of reading TO your child.**

- Reading together builds positive relationships.
- Children's language and speech are developed when they are read to.
- It expands their vocabulary and teaches children how to pronounce new words.
- Reading to your child fine tunes their listening and communication skills and builds children's ability to concentrate.
- Reading to children develops the child's curiosity, creativity and imagination.
- Listening to adults read helps children learn how to express themselves effectively, make predictions and form opinions.
- Don't be afraid to read the same book again. Repeated reading helps build reading fluency.

## This Week's Focus - Reading

### Before Reading

- Explore the front and back cover of the book.
- Read the title, author and illustrator and discuss their purpose.
- Discuss the title of the story and if possible, make connections to the child's prior knowledge.
- Make predictions about what the story might be about.
- Take a 'picture walk' – skim through the story looking at the pictures.
- Ask your child to point out any words that they have learned previously.
- Predict which words your child might have difficulty and support them to find them in the text.

### During Reading

- Echo Read – parent to read one sentence at a time, then child reads it back.
- Choral Read – parent and child read every sentence together.
- Independent Read – Child reads story aloud to parent.
- Encourage early readers to use their finger to point to each word.
- Stop now and again to make sure that they understand what they are reading and to ask questions and revise predictions.
- When your child gets stuck on a word, encourage them to sound it out and use clues from the pictures or from the rest of the sentence.

### After Reading

- Check comprehension again.
- Review their predictions.
- Discuss the story and invite your child to give their opinion of the story. Did they like it? How did it make them feel?
- Talk about the characters and their decisions in the story.