

How to hear your child read.

Choose a time that best suits you and your child.

This might not necessarily be as soon as you get in from school; your child may be tired or need something different/more active to do.

Choose a quiet comfortable place

In many families, children particularly love reading to Mum or Dad because it's the only time she/he can have totally individual attention;

Try to ensure you won't be interrupted, and that noise and distractions are kept to a minimum - e.g. TV is off, other children playing elsewhere; someone else is minding the baby so she/he doesn't cry etc..

Only keep going for as long as you are both enjoying it.

Quality is more important than quantity; and never force or threaten your child...this will only put them off altogether, and don't try to read with your child if you don't feel in the mood..again, your child will sense that you are not enjoying the session, and this will damage their confidence and enthusiasm.

Take turns with the reading - read the story TO them, as well as expecting them to read to you

This will help with their fluency and expression, especially as they get to be more independent in their reading.

Help them when they get stuck

Talk about the pictures and the story

get as much as possible as you can out of the book, ask him/her what they liked best about the story, and why; explain what the unusual words mean

Help your child to point to the words as you/ he/ she reads,

and get them to find common words that keep occurring, e.g: the word might be 'had' or 'wanted'...say to your child 'Oh we had that on the last page; can you remember what it said?'

Give your child lots of praise and encouragement