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## tips on hearing your child read

### 1 *Choose a quiet time*

Make sure there are no distractions, such as a favourite TV programme. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

### 2 *Make reading enjoyable*

Sit with your child and try not to pressurise. If they are reluctant to read then just talk about the book or pictures.

### 3 *Maintain the flow*

When the child doesn't know a word, ask him or her to try it and then tell them what it is. It is better to tell some unknown words than to lose the 'flow'. If your child does try to sound out words then encourage the use of letter **sounds** not names of letters.

### 4 *Lots of praise*

Use lots of praise and encouragement. If they misread a word, stop them and say the correct word - although if it is a word which makes no difference to the meaning ('home' instead of 'house') then it is best ignored.

### 5 *Success is the key*

Until your child has built up their confidence it is better to stick to easier books rather than trying to push them on. As a rough guide, if they struggle with more than 4 words on a page then it is too hard for them. If they struggle they lose the flow, don't understand what is happening and can become 'reluctant readers'.

6 *Regular practice*

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

7 *Visit the library*

Encourage your child to visit the library regularly, help them to choose books. Let them see you choosing and enjoying books, magazines and newspapers.

8 *Talk about the books*

It is really important that your child understands what they are reading. Talk to them about what they have read and ask them what they think they might happen next. Which part of the story or which character do they like best?

9 *Keep in touch with school*

Fill in your child's Reading Record regularly and write down positive comments and any concerns, if you have them. It all helps to show your child that you are interested and that reading is important.

10 *Be creative!*

Books aren't the only thing to read, try comics, labels, newspapers, posters etc. Pick out any words you think they might know. It all helps to show them the value of reading. Play word and memory games. Most importantly - **HAVE FUN!**