

Supporting children's reading at home

You are the best role model your children can have, let them see you reading at home and hear you talking about books.

As parents and carers, the role that you play in supporting your child as they first learn to decode books and then become fluent expressive readers who understand and enjoy what they are reading is huge. Reading needs to become a habit: reading daily is the fastest way of creating one.

In the early stages of learning to read, support your child as they match the letters to the sounds and blend them. Repeated reading of a book will strengthen and speed up this skill. The skill of blending never ends (even as adults, we use it with challenging words: sesquipedalian).

Children need to be guided to recognise punctuation – which chunks up groups of words – so that the meaning of the text becomes clear.

They need to be encouraged to reread misread words (in time, children learn to self-correct). Self-correcting is a sign that a child is starting to think about the meaning of the text and realises that what they have said does not make sense.

As your child's decoding skills progress, your focus should move more towards talking about the text and developing their understanding of what is being read. This is very important – we read to understand what is being communicated in writing to inform and/or entertain us – it is why we learn to read. See the section below: [Understanding what is read \(comprehension\)](#) for further guidance.

Children at primary school age need to become competent independent readers reading age-appropriate texts independently for 20 minutes or longer at a time. Keep engaging your child in book talk showing an interest to embed the reading habit and monitor their understanding.