

1. Look at the book together.
 - What is the title of the book? Tell your child.
 - What do you think it is about? Have a chat.
 - Read the blurb on the back to your child.
 - Look through the book together just looking at the pictures and chatting about them. (You may want to keep the end for a surprise!)
 - The aim of all of this is to give your child an initial understanding of what the book might be about and using their previous knowledge about the subject. This will help with their confidence

2. Now start looking at the words
 - You quickly scan the words and decide which words can be sounded out and which ones are tricky words.
 - Encourage your child to sound out (segment) and then blend (snowball) the words back together – BUT only if it can be sounded out! If your child knows this word by sight then don't worry about sounding out, just let them say it.
 - If they struggle with the word then help them to sound out and blend the word.
 - Always make sure your child says the actual word once they've done the sounding out and blending.
 - If it is a tricky word and your child doesn't know it by sight, then tell them it is a tricky word and can't be sounded out and tell them the word. This will help with fluency and recognition.
 - Once they've read the sentence to you, repeat it back to them so that they can hear what they've just read.

3. Your child does not need to read a whole book in one sitting. Keep the reading sessions short and enjoyable.

4. Read every day with your child.

5. Always have a book for bedtime that YOU read to them. This helps your child learn new vocabulary and research has shown that this will make your child a better writer as well as a reader.

6. Tricky words – please practise the word sheets with your child, which can be found at the back of their yellow reading record. They need to learn these by sight. These words will help greatly with their fluency.