

Templestowe Park Primary School

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Reading for Meaning

It is wonderful to see how much the children are enjoying reading. When your child reads with fluency and expression he or she can understand what was just read and react to the message.

Every time your child is read to with enjoyment and expression, he or she is building a lifelong love of literature. For many children this modelling carries over to their reading and they read just as they would speak, in a phrased, fluent and expressive way. This makes understanding reading easy and automatic, leading them to independent strategy building. If they can hear that their reading doesn't make sense or sound right they can go back and fix up the part that didn't sound right or make sense. When we listen to children read, it is important not to jump in too soon to correct their errors, as they will often need to finish the sentence to notice that it doesn't make sense or sound right. A good way to encourage them to self-correct, if it doesn't happen automatically, is to wait to the end of a page or phrase and say, "You nearly got that right. Was there a place where you thought it didn't make sense (or sound right)?" For more prompts refer to the prompts sheet we have placed in the back of the Home Reading Diary.

If your child is reading slowly with a 'robot-like voice' (word-by-word) model a page for them with fluency, phrasing and expression and invite them to try again using a 'talking voice' and lots of expression. Once they have good word-by-word correspondence they no longer need to use their finger. Sometimes, for children who have developed a habit of pointing with their finger, a simple prompt like, "Try that again, using your eyes, not your finger" is enough to help them read more fluently so that they can understand what they read.

Find a quiet, comfortable place to read, away from distraction. Tell your child the book's title and look through the pictures together. Discuss what is happening in the pictures, using the language of the book. It is a good idea to tell your child the names of the characters, especially when they are unfamiliar. We want to make reading easy and enjoyable rather than difficult and a chore.

Encourage your child to read to themselves so that they can practise listening to their own reading from the very beginning. They are more likely to engage with the message and see reading as fun. Above all, enjoy your reading time together!

