

Top Tips for Helping Your Child in Reading

Lower Anxiety

Keep reading sessions short and sweet and focus on **sharing** a book with your child rather than hearing them read. Breathe deeply, smile and find some funny books that you can both laugh at.

Make time to share books

Try to set aside time each day - 10 minutes or so - to read together using books your child has chosen from the library or school. A good way to check the level of a book is the 'Five Finger Test'. Open a page and ask your child to put one finger up for every word they don't know. If all five fingers have been used up, the chances are the book is too difficult.

Reading books over and over again

If your child wants to, it's ok to let them read favourite books over and over again. This really helps them become fluent readers. Let them read what grabs their interest -comics, magazines, information books or text on internet sites.

Give your child time when they are stuck

Don't jump in too quickly, just wait to see if they can work it out by themselves. If they can't you can either just tell them the word to keep the flow of reading or use simple prompts like to sound out the letters

Use technology

Your child can listen to talking books on MP3 players or tablets anywhere like in the car or simple chill out time. Playing fun phonics games using apps on your phone or tablet. Help you read text messages. They can use the internet too, to go on websites for fun reading activities. <http://www.youngcalibre.org.uk/>