

## Tips to support reading

1. Focus on sharing a book rather than 'hearing ' them read.
2. Make time to share books - child's choice. Perhaps choose 2 levels of difficulty. One that really interests them but may be too hard for them to read - so perhaps about their hobbies or interests and one at an easier level that they can read for themselves.
3. Use the five finger test to test the level of difficulty and whether it is the right level to read.
4. Read favourite books over and over again if that is what the child wants to do. This can help them become fluid readers.
5. Read whatever they find interesting - comics / papers / menus
6. Use words in the book that your child might find difficult - for example amazing / fantastic
7. Take turns to read - first time through you can read together. Child needs to have a signal to let you know when they would like to read on their own. Different pages / different words - keep the flow going so the thread of the story is not lost.
8. Build confidence - lots of positive praise
9. When your child gets stuck - give them time. Sound out together / give starter sounds / break down into syllables / use finger to break it down. Some words do not follow the phonics rules so in this case you will have to say them out loud - write them down and look at them again.
10. Games with sounds - eyespy / using magnetic letters from fridge / use a whiteboard and pen. Keyword of the week for all the family.
11. Making a book for themselves, searching for objects that begin with the same sound, rhyming riddles - I am thinking of a colour that rhymes with bed.
12. Different days - children will perform differently, not just being lazy.
13. Read to your child / let them see you reading.
14. As well as listening to you reading to them at bedtime, they can listen to talking books on their MP3 players in the car. They can have fun playing phonics games using apps you can get for your smart phone. They can help you read text messages. They can use the internet, too, to go on websites for fun reading activities. There are lots of great ideas out there, from podcasts to treasure hunts to quizzes and puzzles. You might want to look

at the National Literacy Trust's Words for Life site, for example, and of course [Kids' Barn](#) on Oxford Owl.

### Reading in the holidays

1. Local library - reading challenge or make your own family reading challenge at home.
2. Signs / labels out and about - how many miles to Chippenham?
3. Den Reading - in the dark with the lights out?
4. Reading to other members of the family
5. Family meal times - menu / name cards
6. Post cards
7. Holiday scrap book
8. Cooking

