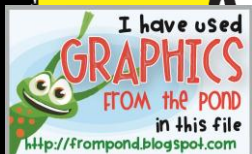


Parent Tips and Tricks

Newsletters to
send home to
parents
throughout the
school year to
help them
better
understand
how their child
is learning how
to read.



Created by: Jennie Johnson
JD's Rockin' Readers

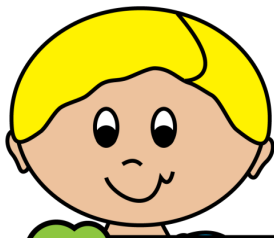




Parent Tips and Tricks

to help teach your child how to read

Learning how to read is a developmental process just as learning how to walk and talk. As parents and teachers, we need to provide encouragement with our words and actions to help your child along his/her journey of learning how to read.



Pictures are important

*pictures provide the reader with important information from the story. Please allow your child to use the pictures to help him/her solve new words and gain meaning of the text.

If reading is fun, your child will want to read over and over again. Find a place to read that is comfortable and has little distractions.

Set aside a time to read. Reading before bed is a great time to wind down and relax. It quickly becomes a bedtime routine that your child will look forward to.

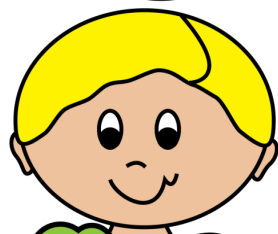


Parent Tips and Tricks

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Sight Words

Sight words are words that need to be known quickly when reading. Many of these words cannot be sounded out. Check out some of the first sight words we are learning.



one-to-one match

Beginning readers should be pointing under the words when they read. They need to learn to check their reading so that they are not inserting or deleting words.

Sight Words

the, I, to, a, is,
my, go, me, like,
on, in, so, we, it,
and, up, at, see,
he, do, you, an,
can, no, am,
went, are, this,
look, for, get,
come, got, play

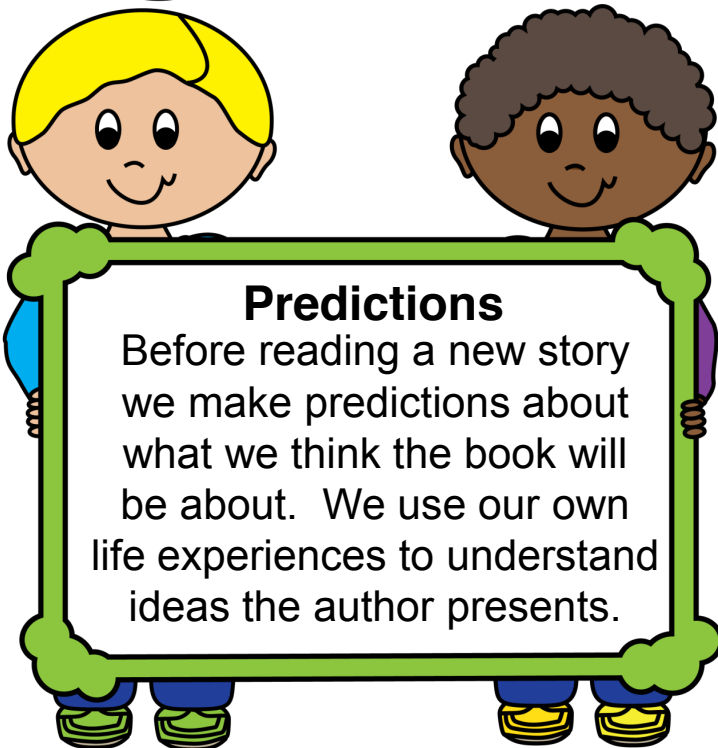


Parent Tips and Tricks

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Patterned Books

Many of the first books we read have a patterned text. This helps the child predict and check his reading. If your child has “memorized” the story, encourage him to point under the words and check his reading.



Predictions

Before reading a new story we make predictions about what we think the book will be about. We use our own life experiences to understand ideas the author presents.

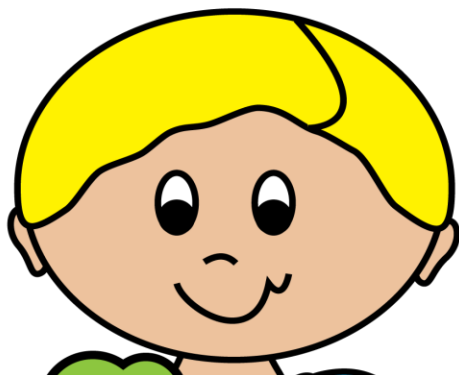
“Sounding Out”

There are many phases to sounding out new words. The first of these is CVC words (consonant-vowel-consonant). We are learning how to say the individual sounds of 3 letter words that follow this pattern. For example, c-a-t, f-u-n.



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Self- Monitoring

One goal for beginning readers is that we want them to be able to monitor their own reading. This means that they need to know when they have made an error. If your child makes an error, give them a chance to notice that it isn't correct instead of immediately correcting the error. You can ask your child:

Does it look right?

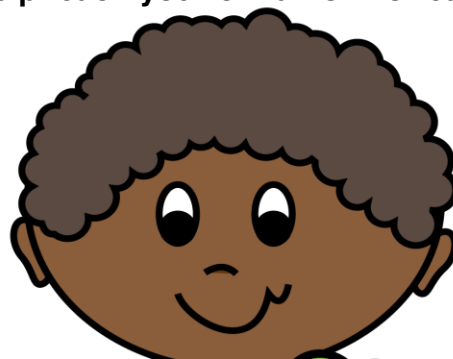
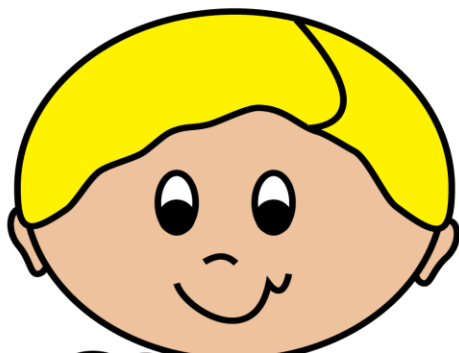
Does it sound right?

Does it make sense?



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Reading for Meaning

It is very important that children learn right from the start that reading is not just simply saying words. We read to get the author's message and reading is easier when children understand the message. When children read for meaning, they will make good word choices at difficult parts of the story.

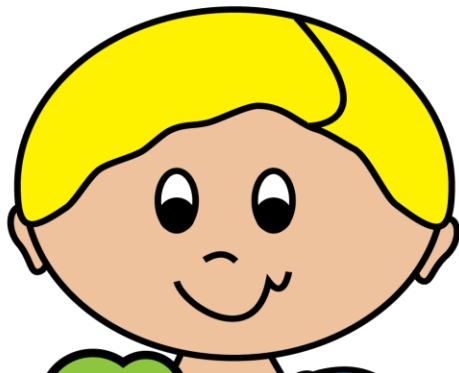
Remember to:

- make predictions before reading and throughout the story as to what might happen next
- talk about the story as you read
- make connections to the child's own life



Parent Tips and Tricks

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What? That didn't make sense...

Children need to know when their reading doesn't make sense. To get students who are struggling with this and just continue to read on without trying to self correct, you may want to use a visual to help them remember. I have include a STOP sign to help them remember that they need to go back and reread the part that didn't make sense again. You can cut this out at home and keep it as a reminder for your child.



If it doesn't make sense...

STOP

... and go back and reread.

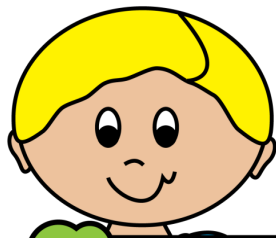


Parent Tips and Tricks

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Accuracy Counts

Accuracy is the percentage of words that are read correctly in a book. Your child should be reading at least 90% of words correctly in the books that are being read at home. If he is reading independently without your support, he should be reading 95% or more correctly.



Too Easy?

If your child is reading every word correctly, this book is considered very easy and you may want to challenge your child with more difficult books.

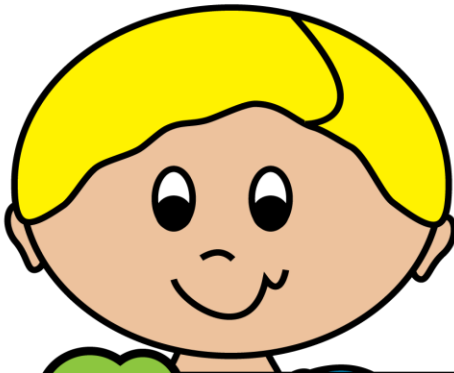
Too Difficult?

If your child is missing more than one word out of every ten words, the book is too difficult. You may need to support your child and help him a little more if it is a required reading. You don't want it to be frustrating, so help your child when necessary.



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Inferencing

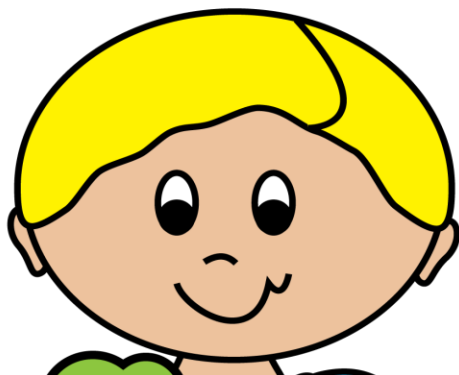
Inferencing: Gathering information or knowledge of what is happening without being told.

Your child must be able to make inferences about their reading. It is a very important part of comprehending the story. For example, if you think about the story of the Three Little Pigs, you may ask your child- What can you tell me about the third little pig? What kind of pig was he? How is he different than his brother and sister? You should expect your child to know that he was a hard worker and wanted to do it right the first time. His brother and sister didn't care as much or were more lazy. This can be a very hard concept for some students to understand. The more you can talk with your child about thinking beyond what is written, the better she will get at inferencing.



Parent Tips and Tricks

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Skip it...

One of the strategies we are learning is that it is okay to skip a word. But **ONLY** if you go back and try it again. Sometimes a child may try several strategies like looking at the picture, trying to sound it out, and thinking about what would make sense but they still cannot figure out the unknown word.

It is okay for the your child to skip the word and read to the end of the sentence but then they must come back and try to solve it again. This works well many times if your child is stuck on the first word or two in the sentence.