

# Reading With Your Child

Lathlain  
Primary  
School

Reading is an important skill that is used throughout daily life. For students we recognise and teach the importance of both fluency, expression and making meaning when reading. Below are some tips to help your child be a more successful reader.

## Fluency

There are three key components in developing fluency in reading. Fluency is being able to read sentences clearly, accurately and with appropriate speed.

### 1. Letters and sounds

Students must understand both the names of each individual letter and the sounds they make. It is also beneficial that students understand some letter-sound relationships (such as 'sh' and 'th') in order to start sounding out words

### 2. Sounding Out

After learning their letters and sounds, students can start trying to sound out words. This means that they will start breaking their words down to identify how they are pronounced. For example, when sounding out the word 'ship' student may say "sh-i-p".

### 3. Sight Words

Sight words are a variety of different words that must be learnt visually rather than being sounded out. Students cannot break these words down as the letter and sounds don't match with the rules that they have learnt. For example, the word 'because' would be written as "be-c-o-z".if it was written how it sounds.

### 4. Expression

Expression is the ability to show feeling by changing voice and tone. Expressive readers will change the speed and tone of their voice appropriately when reading a text. This will include the use of punctuation which, when reading expressively, will change regularly through a text.

## What is most important is that your child be able to make meaning

### Tips when reading with your child

**Be patient** - students will take a while to sound out words. Make sure not to jump in too quickly to help them .

**Model behaviours** - children learn by watching others. If you model appropriate reading behaviours, they will mimic these over time.

**Make it enjoyable** - make sure that your child enjoys what they are reading. Finding something that interests them will help them stay actively involved.

### Questions to ask your child

**Right There (literal)** - questions which answers lie in the text (usually Kindy - Year 3)

Who is the main character?

Where is the story set?

Who is the author?

What did Goldilocks eat?

**Think and Search (inferential)** - questions which require some further thought and use of the text to answer (usually Years 1-6)

Why did the big bad wolf dress as the grandma?

What was the problem in the story?

How was the problem solved?

**On Your Own (evaluative)** - the answers are generally the readers opinions or assumptions (usually Years 1-6)

Why did the author choose a wolf to chase the three little pigs?

What other ways could the problem have been solved?

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