

## **Helping Your Child to Learn to Read**

Encouraging your child to read and enjoy books is the best way of helping them learn and achieve at school. Children who are encouraged to read regularly, preferably daily, with an adult tend to make the most progress.



### **Ways to support reading:**

1. Continue to develop a range of strategies which will enable your child to deal with written words which are new to him / her. These include:
  - sounding out and blending 2-3 phonemes (sounds) together into syllables and words
  - breaking words into syllables (sound chunks)
  - becoming familiar with prefixes and suffixes (be-, de-, re-, pre-, -ing, -ed, -s)
  - using pictures as visual cues to the meaning of what is written
  - making use of meaning and sentence structure to guess the word
  - guessing from meaning plus first syllable clue
  - model the correct pronunciation of new words.
  
2. Encourage reading for meaning through activities such as retelling, prediction, deduction, answering questions including:
  - asking your child to identify characters in a story
  - ask him / her to isolate 2 key facts from the text
  - stop the story at a given point and ask him / her to predict what will happen next - start with obvious examples and progress to more difficult
  - ask your child to predict an outcome before a page is turned, using picture/contextual clues.
  
3. Some children enjoy recording themselves reading a book.