

## **A Guide to Reading**

Please note that the majority of this is done through **discussions**

### **First (Day 1/2)**

Have a good look at the book. Look at:

- The author
- The illustrator
- The title
- The blurb
- The picture on the front
- You can even have a flick through the pictures if you wish

What does all of this information tell you?

- Have we read anything that has been written/illustrated by this person?
- What might the story be about?
- Who might be the main characters?
- Do you know anything about the topic/have a similar experience?

The first days with the book are spent trying to sound out all of those words. That can take a lot of brain power and not leave room for much else!

- Sound out the words using your initial sounds
- Look out for any digraphs you know (two letters that make only one sound, i.e. sh, ch, th, wh, ng)
- Look out for any of our tricky words – remember you cannot sound these out because they have something in them to trick you!

If sounding out is a little tricky:

- Talk about the picture – what can you see is happening and what would make sense.
- If, as the adult, you can see something that you know will be difficult then be sure to mention that word in your discussion. This can 'prime' it in your child's brain and make retrieval a little easier.
- Read the words at the same time – your child might lag behind you slightly on each word but this is absolutely fine

### **Next (Day 3)**

Now that we have an idea what happens in the story, we begin with some more in-depth questions

You can ask questions such as:

- Where does the story take place?
- What is the first thing that happened in the story?
- What was the story mainly about?
- How did 'Biff' feel when \_\_\_\_ happened?
- Have you read another book/seen a film that is similar?
- Do you have any questions about what happened?
- Which part of the story did you like best?
- Could this story happen to you?
- Why do you think 'Chip' decided to \_\_\_\_?
- Did 'Kipper' make the right choice?
- Could you have solved the problem a different way?
- What might have happened next?

Use your Bloom's questioning fans in your home learning pack to help you think up some questions about the book you are reading.

Bloom's Taxonomy is a hierarchical ordering of cognitive skills. The idea is that remembering a fact about something you have read is very straightforward, whereas creating your own ideas takes more creativity and higher order thinking processes. You can find more question starters here:

<https://www.utica.edu/academic/Assessment/new/Bloom%20tx%20revised%20combined.pdf>

### **Then (Day 4)**

We look closely for punctuation clues.

- Full stops tell us to stop and that the sentence is finished
- Question marks tell us that someone has asked a question
- Exclamation marks tell us that someone is shouting or is surprised
- Speech marks (inverted commas) show us what is being said – some books use speech bubbles and others use a mixture

We can also now start to think about the language that is used.

- Find a word that rhymes with...
- How many sentences...
- Find the biggest/smallest word...
- Can you spot any words within words? (e.g. you find **at** and **hat** in **that**)
- How could you join two sentences on page...
- Can you think of a different word for...

### **Finally (Day 5)**

Now that all of those pesky words are making more sense, we start to think about adding expression and fluency.

- Think about 'how' a character might say something.
- Try reading the full sentence in your head before you say it out loud.

It is important for the adult to model how to read fluently and with expression throughout the week's reading. You will begin to hear the words you choose to emphasise being parroted back to you.

## **Activities**

Here are some activity ideas that we would sometimes use in class:

- Design a new front cover for your book
- Draw your favourite picture and say why
- Add speech/thought bubbles to a picture
- Draw 3 pictures showing what happens at the start/in the middle/ at the end of the story
- Draw what would happen next
- Write down a sentence from the story, chop it into individual words and sort it back into the correct order.