

How can I help with reading?

Some ideas for Reception and Key Stage One

As these ideas are for all three year groups, please don't worry if some are too difficult for your child at this stage. Stick with the things they **can** do!



Remember the best thing you can do with your child is read together and make it enjoyable and fun!

Reading Words

- Use phonics to help sound out any unknown words. If phonics don't work it might be a 'tricky word', one which your child will just have to learn what it looks like e.g. have, because, was, wanted. Help your child by telling them these words and they should begin to remember them.
- Can you find any compound words? E.g. sand + pit = sandpit, lunch + box = lunchbox.
- Split two and three syllable words into separate syllables then blend to read.
- Find words with **capital letters** and explain why the words need them.
- Find words with contractions e.g. *I'm, I'll, we'll*. Identify the missing letter then write the words out in full.
- Identify words ending in **-ing, -ed, -er, -est**.
- Find 5 words in the text that end with the suffix **ed**. Investigate what has happened to the root word when the suffix was added.
- Find words with the prefix **un** and explain how it changes the meaning of the root word.
- Find words in the text containing the **-s** and **-es** suffixes. Investigate which letter comes before the suffix and see if you can spot a rule.
- Find 5 words in the text with the **ea** grapheme. Do they all sound the same?
- Find words with the suffix **ly**. Are they all adverbs?

Understanding the story

- Compare the text with something in your own life and say what is the same and what is different.
- Pretend you are a character in the story and tell me what sort of day you have had.
- Find an example of the main character speaking. How do you think they felt at that moment?
- Give your opinion about an event in the story and explain why you think that.
- Do you like this story? Say why or why not.
- What is your favourite part of the story? Why?
- What do you think of the main character? Have you changed your mind as the story has progressed?
- Can you give an example of something that happened in the story that you didn't like?
- Write a note to the main character telling them what you think of something they have done.
- Can you choose one word to describe how a character is looking / feeling / acting at certain points in the story?

Settings & Characters

- What has happened in the story so far?
- Who is the main character?
- Find 3 clues in the story that tell you what kind of a character this is.
- How do the other characters feel about the main character?
- Ask me a question about a character or an event in the story.
- Has the author included a picture or pictures? How do they help you understand the story?
- Can you make a link between this story and other stories you have read? What is the same and what is different?
- If characters speak in the story, what does it tell you about their personalities?

Vocabulary

- Find key words in the story and link the meanings to words you already know. E.g. what's another word for sad?
- Choose your 2 favourite words in the story and say why you like them.
- Explain what an exclamation mark means and how it changes your voice when reading the story.
- Choose a word or phrases in the story you haven't seen before. Discuss what it could mean by looking at the other words in the same sentence.
- Find a word in the story, then exchange it for a different one. Re-read the sentence with the new word. Does it still make sense?
- Find a word in the story that has a prefix or a suffix (or even one with both). Can you work out what the root word is? E.g. happy / unhappy,
- Play **Fastest Finger First** where you have to find particular words in the story.
- Find a word in the story and think of a word that has an opposite meaning.

Prediction & Summary

- What was the first event in the story?
- Identify the key events in the story and put them in order.
- Based on the cover/ this chapter/section, what do you think will happen next?
- Draw a story map or timeline of events.
- Was there a problem in the story? How was it resolved?
- How did the story end? How did the characters feel at the beginning / middle and end of the story?
- Choose a different ending for the story.
- Re-tell the story, using pictures to help you and actions to show key moments. Ask your audience to join in.