



Ten ideas to help your children with reading

Please note that for simplicity we have referred to your child as 'he'.

1. Always choose a quiet place for reading. Don't have the TV on at the same time!
2. Make reading a pleasurable, relaxing activity. Give your child plenty of time. Don't rush your child when he is reading.
3. Sit close to your child and give him your total attention. Let him know you are interested in him and want to hear him read.
4. Be positive. Praise your child when he reads well. Don't just comment on mistakes. Always finish with a word of encouragement.
5. Vary the way you read with your child. From time to time, read the page to your child first and ask him to follow it, before you ask him to read the page to you. Sometimes take it in turns to read a sentence each.
6. Always spend time talking about the story. For example talk about what has happened before, who is in the story, where the story takes place, what might happen next, and so on. For levels 3 to 6, also ask about the interesting facts and which of these your child finds the most surprising as well as interesting.
7. Always spend some time talking about the pictures and photos. Pictures give meaning to the text as do photos for the factual sections of level 3 to 6 Macmillan Children's Readers. Talking will help develop your child's vocabulary.
8. Don't get cross with your child for making a mistake. It is important not to make him feel like a failure if he finds reading difficult – a lot of children do!
9. Don't compare your child with other children. Remember that all children develop at a different rate.
10. Don't let your child struggle over a word he doesn't know. Follow this checklist to help your child work out an unknown word:
 - Help your child sound the word out. Use letter sounds, for example, 'ah' not 'ay' for 'a'.
 - If this doesn't work, read the complete sentence again, missing out the unknown word.
 - Read the following one or two sentences for him. Does the meaning become clear?
 - Are there any pictures on the page that help?
 - If none of these things help, simply tell your child what the word is.
 - Then read the whole sentence again and ask him to repeat it.

