

# Early Reading Skills

Developing excellent reading is about much more than being able to decode the words: comprehending the texts is also critical. The prompts below may give you some ideas about good questions to ask.

## Before you open the book

- Look at the front cover and encourage prediction. Who? What? Where?
- Read the blurb - how much does it tell us about the story
- Can we work out who the main characters are
- Look at the illustrations

## During reading

- Can you put your finger on the word
- Can you find the beginning/end of the sentence
- Can you use your fingers to frame a sentence
- Can you find a lower case to match that capital
- Can you re-read the bold print on page
- Can you find speech bubbles, speech marks
- Can you find a long word on page
- Can you break it into syllables
- Can you find a word that rhymes with
- Can you find a word that starts with the sound

## How to prompt when an error is made

When they make an error rather than immediately correcting words try some of these phrases

- Were there enough words
- Read it with your finger this time
- Where is the tricky word
- Does that make sense
- Do you think it looks like
- It could be but look at
- Check it. Does it look right and sound right to you

## Ideas for when they can't read a word

When they are really stuck

- Check the picture
- What happened in the story
- Which word would make sense there
- Can you see a word inside the word that you know
- Is it like a word you already know
- Blend the first two sounds together

## After reading

- Ask TED questions (tell, explain, describe) that way you know they will be open questions. e.g. Tell me what you think about Describe the main character to me Explain why that happened
- Ask about the order or sequence of events within the book. Can you remember what happened after, before, between
- Did you enjoy it and why
- How was it different from

## Also

- When possible allow children some choice in their reading materials at the library/book shop and ask them to explain their choices
- Remember to include non-fiction books when choosing reading material
- Try encouraging reading text online, in comics and wherever you see text when you're out and about
- Picture books can be an excellent source of comprehension questions
- Try delving deeper into old favourites - you may be able to ask more in depth questions with books that they are very familiar with