



To become good readers children need to develop skills in seven key areas and it can be useful to think about these when reading with your child.

- 1) **Decoding:** Using strategies to **break down words**.
- 2) **Retrieval and Recall:** Finding information from the text to find evidence for how e.g. a character is feeling or what the setting is like.
- 3) **Inference:** Reading between the lines i.e. how does an author 'show' not 'tell' us how a character is feeling.
- 4) **Structure and Organisation:** E.g. subheadings (to locate information quickly), paragraphs, new line for new speakers, chapters, contents pages, glossaries, etc.
- 5) **Language:** to consider how the author has carefully selected words for effect.
- 6) **Purpose and Viewpoint:** What does the narrator or author perhaps feel about a certain situation or subject?
- 7) **Making Links:** To real life experiences or to similar books.

Below are some questions linked to the above points, which we hope you will find useful. It is not necessary to ask every question each time your child reads, of course, but they may prove to be useful prompts to start a more focused discussion.

Questions to ask before you read

- Can you look at the pictures and predict what you think will happen in this book?
- What makes you think that?
- What characters do you think might be in our story?
- Do you think there will be a problem in this story? Why or why not?
- Does the topic/story relate to you or your family? How?

Questions to ask during the reading

- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- Can you predict how the story will end?
- Why do you think the character did _____?
- What would you have done if you were the character?
- How would you have felt if you were the character? (use different characters)
- As I read _____, it made me picture _____ in my head. What pictures do you see in your head?
- As you read, what are you wondering about?
- Can you put what you've just read in your own words?

Questions to ask after reading

- Can you remember the title?
- In your opinion, was it a good title for this book? Why or why not?
- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- If there was a problem, did it get solved?
- What happened because of the problem?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What is the most important point the author is trying to make in his writing?
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be?
- Can you retell the story in order?
- If you were _____, how would you have felt?
- What is the most interesting situation in the story?
- Is there a character in the story like you? How are you alike?
- Why did you like this book?