



# HOW TO HELP WITH... READING

## PICK A READABLE BOOK!

It sounds obvious, but if lots of the words in a book are too difficult to read it can stop children from understanding the content. As a rule of thumb, children should be able to read at a pace of about 100 words per minute, and understand about 95% of the words in a text.



## SHOW THEM HOW IT'S DONE!

Spending time reading to your child will show them how to use their voice and tone to get the most out of their reading.

Reading a passage of text (or a whole text, if it is short) to your child and asking them to read the same text back to you is a good exercise!



## SUBSTITUTE DIFFICULT WORDS

When encountering an unfamiliar word, using context clues and elements of phonics instruction (e.g. breaking the word down in to sounds) can be helpful. Where a word can be read but the meaning is unknown, try covering the word up with your finger. Can your child think of a substitute word that would make sense for the sentence? Whilst this won't work all the time, it can be a useful strategy.

## READ REGULARLY

Nothing is as important in developing the reading abilities of children than regular reading. Reading sessions do not have to be long or intensive - giving children regular opportunities to read is the most important thing.

