Support a Reader

How to support a reader?

- Look at the book's cover, title, pictures and characters. Predict what the book is about if it is a new book.
- Use positive praise often for the reader's effort, progress and improvement.
- Scaffold support: Provide just enough support to help the reader decode unfamiliar words or understand the meaning of the text.
- If required, model reading the text on a page. Read fluently and with expression. Then get the reader to repeat.
- Encourage self-correction. When the reader makes a mistake, encourage them to try to self-correct by looking at the context or the initial letter or sound of the word.

Strategies to Help Decode

- Break the word down: Encourage the reader to break the word down into smaller chunks or sounds, such as syllables or individual phonemes. eg /c/.../a/.../t/   or b/.../ur/.../
- The English language also contains many irregular spelling rules which can make sounding out particular words confusing eg the letter combination /ch/ in the words chef, choir and cheese has 3 different pronunciations.
- There are tricky words like said, are and was. Help the reader learn the pronunciation of tricky words along with it's meaning, to help them recognise the 'irregular' words by sight.
- Model decoding the word and think aloud to help the child observe a good reader read a text

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Key Questions -Select 2-3 from each box

Prediction Questions

- What do you think the story is about?
- Who do you think the main character might be?
- Where do you think….. **(the character)** will go next?
- What do you think the character will say/do next?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Who do you think has done it?
- What might ……… **(one of the characters)** say about that?

Retrieval Questions with

- Who is the main character?
- Where is the story set? Where does it happen?
- When does the story take place?
- Which is your favourite part of the story?
- What happened in the story?
- Tell me 2 things that happened in the story.
- What happened at the beginning of the story?
- What happened at the end of the story?

Vocabulary Questions with

- Can you find a word/sentence that….? **eg Can you show a word that means the girl was loud?**
- Why do you think the author used the word … to describe …?
- Can you find a word that means the same as…?
- Find an adjective **(action/doing word)** in the text?
- Can you think of another word that means…? **(pick a word in the text)**
- What does the word…**(pick a word in the text)** mean?

Inference Questions

- What do you think …. means?
- How do you think…?
- Why do you think…?
- How do you know where the story took place?
- What would you do if…?
- What will happen if…?
- How can you tell…? **eg How can you tell the boy is unhappy?**
- Do you like this story? Why? Why not?
- What would you do if…?
- Why can't we use…? **eg Why can't we use cotton wool to build houses?**