

Parent notes for Year 1

How to Read Together

- Look at the title and cover picture. Talk about when they have done or seen similar things.
- Predict what will happen. Look at all the pictures and guess what the story is about.
- Read the book together. When you get to a tricky word, try one of the following:
 - Use Picture clues – are there things in the picture that tell us the word?
 - Sound out the word. Draw out the sounds so they connect. (see below)
 - Look for parts of the word that your child knows.
 - Give your child a word that rhymes with the unknown word or has the same spelling pattern.
 - Reread the sentence for your child.
 - Find another place in the book where your child has seen or read that word before.
 - Guess some words. After each guess, stop and think: Does it make sense? Does it look right? Does it sound right?
- After reading talk about the book
 - Ask them what they thought about the book. What was their favourite part and why? Were their predictions correct?

When 'sounding' words

When your child comes to an unfamiliar word do not say it for them. Help them to 'sound it out'. This models one of the reading strategies they use. The aim is for them to hear the sound, where it comes in a word and to easily recognise it in future.

Some children can 'hear' sounds easily, others need some help to identify them. It is important to stretch the word as you say the sounds. Run the sounds into each other for easier recognition.

Diary Entries

- Please feel free to write a note in your child's Discovery College diary letting us know the successes or difficulties experienced.
- The Reading Diary needs to be completed daily as it is part of your child's reading record.