



How to help at home – English as an additional language

Language

- Talk to your child in the language you feel most comfortable in – this might not be English. You will be giving your child a rich experience in a language you speak and understand rather than a limited dialogue.
- **Talk, Talk, Talk!!!** Talk about everything you see and do in the language you know best. Children need words to think. They can then use these words to make sentences. Children will learn more vocabulary by completing lots of speaking and listening activities. (See below).
- Talk to your child about what they are learning about in your home language.

Reading

- Listen to audio stories – the local library has some great books!
- Use online websites to help you such as:
'Teach your monster to read' - <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>
'Learn to read' - <http://www.starfall.com/>
'Bug Club' - <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>
- Do not translate word for word. If you read an English story discuss what is happening in your home language. Pick out key words and translate.
- Practise reading. (See below).
- Use your sounds. (See below).
- Use common words to help you with reading e.g. the, were, was? (See below).

Writing

- Practise writing all lowercase letters in cursive. (See below).
- Can your child write on a line from left to right?
- Encourage your child to use sounds, listening to all the sounds in the word and use the sound mat to support their writing. (See below).
- Can your child write simple sentences using finger spaces in between each word?
- Remind your child to use a capital letter at the start of a sentence and a full stop at the end.
- Include important details in your sentence. (See below).

Other websites to use to support language

- 'Kids Learn English British Council' <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/>
- 'MES Games' <http://mes-games.com/>
- 'MES Video Flash cards' <https://www.youtube.com/user/mesenglish>
- 'Alphablocks' <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

These are useful for practising vocabulary, grammar, listening, reading, spelling with songs, games, stories, podcasts and much more...

Question Words ?



What ?

It's used to ask about specific thing, people, animal, object.



Which ?

It's used to ask about choice, alternative.



Where ?

It's used to ask about place, position.



Who ?

It's used to ask about people, person.



When ?

It's used to ask about time, occasion, moment.



Whose ?

It's used to ask about who the possessor of something.



Why ?

It's used to ask about reason, explanation.



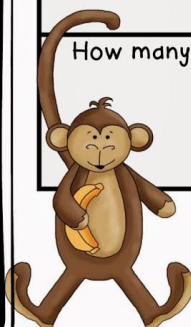
How ?

It's used to ask about condition, quality, may, manner, form events and the way things.

QUESTION WORDS



Question word	Use	Example
Who	Person	Who is your English Teacher? Who is your best friend?
When	Time	When is lunch time? When do you go to school?
Where	Place	Where are you? Where do you live?
What	Object Action	What is that? What do you do?
Why	Reason (because...)	Why are you sad? Why are you late?
How	Characteristics Feelings	How are you? How old are you?
How many	Quantity	How many pencils do you have? How many sisters do you have?



Reading Prompts

To become good reader's, use these skills:

Decoding: different strategies used by children to make sense of the words on the page.

Retrieval and recall: looking for important information to retell stories and describe events.

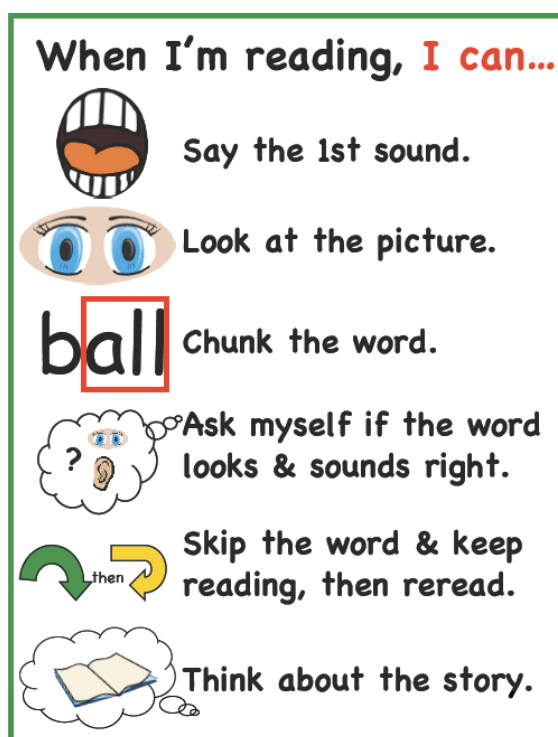
Inference: reading between the lines. Encouraging children to make guesses based on clues in the text.

Structure and organisation: talking about different features and how they are organised, e.g. the use of subtitles in a non-fiction text. Make links between the *purpose* of the text and its *organisation*.

Language: thinking about the language choices and the effect these have on the reader. Talking about different choices and their effects can be a good way to start and an opportunity to develop vocabulary.

Purpose and viewpoint: Who is the narrator of this story? What does the writer of this biography feel about his/her subject? Understanding that writers write for a purpose and that this will have an impact on the way a text is written - newspapers and advertisements are perfect examples of this.

Making links: making links between ideas and experiences. Connecting with the book and linking it with real life experiences or with other books they have read and stories heard.



Useful Questions

- Why did you want to read this book?
- Do you like the book cover? What do you like about the cover?
- Have you read any other books by this author?
- What do you think this book might be about?
- What is the title of this book?
- Who are the author and illustrator?
- Does the picture on the cover give us any clues as to what the story might be about?
- Read the back – What clues does this give us about the book?
- Does the story sound exciting / happy / sad?
- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you see in the pictures? Can you name the pictures in English and in your language?
- Are the pictures helping you to tell the story?
- Which character is your favourite?
- How would you describe the characters?
- How would you feel if you were the character?
- What happened at the beginning of the book?
- What happened next?
- What happened at the end of the story?
- At what point did we realise...?
- What did we learn about the character at the beginning?
- What did we learn about the character by the end?
- Who were the main characters?
- Would you like to be any of the characters? Why?
- How would you feel if you were the character at this point in the story?
- What would you have done?
- What are some of the words the author has used to describe the characters?
- How did the character feel when...?
- Does this character remind you of anything?
- Did you enjoy the story?
- Did the book remind you of any other stories?
- What were the similarities between the stories?
- What did you like / dislike the most?
- Did any part of the story make you laugh?
- What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
- Were there any words / sentences which you liked?
- Were any of the words in CAPITALS / **bold** / *italics*? Why?
- Would you like to read another book by this author?
- Did the story remind you of anything which has happened to you?

You can ask the questions or let your child ask you the questions. They will really enjoy swapping roles. You can talk about the story in your own language and pick out key words to explain your opinion. "I think.... because the character said..." and point to the sentence/key word. Choose a few questions each time. Do not ask all of the questions every time you read.

The greatest encouragement for your child is to see you - their most influential role model – reading!





First 100 High Frequency Words

in frequency order reading down the columns

the	that	not	look	put
and	with	then	don't	could
a	all	were	come	house
to	we	go	will	old
said	can	little	into	too
in	are	as	back	by
he	up	no	from	day
I	had	mum	children	made
of	my	one	him	time
it	her	them	Mr	I'm
was	what	do	get	if
you	there	me	just	help
they	out	down	now	Mrs
on	this	dad	came	called
she	have	big	oh	here
is	went	when	about	off
for	be	it's	got	asked
at	like	see	their	saw
his	some	looked	people	make
but	so	very	your	an

Next 200 High Frequency Words

in frequency order reading down the columns (water to laughed then let's to grow)

water	bear	find	these	live
away	can't	more	began	say
good	again	I'll	boy	soon
want	cat	round	animals	night
over	long	tree	never	narrator
how	things	magic	next	small
did	new	shouted	first	car
man	after	us	work	couldn't
going	wanted	other	lots	three
where	eat	food	need	head
would	everyone	fox	that's	king
or	our	through	baby	town
took	two	way	fish	I've
school	has	been	gave	around
think	yes	stop	mouse	every
home	play	must	something	garden
who	take	red	bed	fast
didn't	thought	door	may	only
ran	dog	right	still	many
know	well	sea	found	laughed



a b c d e f g h i j k
l m n o p q r s t u
v w x y z

stretch a Sentence

Who?

My **cute** puppy



**Doing
What?**

My cute puppy **curls
up** on the rug.



When?

Each night, my cute
puppy curls up on
the rug.



Where?

Each night, my cute
puppy curls up on the
rug **in my bedroom**.



Why?

Each night, my cute
puppy curls up on the
rug in my bedroom
to chew his bone.

