

Reading to and with your child is crucial to developing their reading skills. It is important to read to your child regularly, whilst encouraging them to join in when they can.

How to help your child develop their reading skills in Year 1

- When your child is reading aloud to you, encourage them to use the picture clues to help them read simple texts
- Point out the punctuation in a sentence
- Take turns in reading
- Use the sounds in the words to build up words phonetically
- Point out the main differences between fiction and non-fiction
- Talk about the main event and ask simple questions about it
- Talk about the main character's feelings
- Point out obvious story language, e.g. Once upon a time, big bad wolf
- Re-read stories and poems so that your child becomes very familiar with them and can retell them
- Talk about how the story relates to your child's experiences

Questions to ask your child when reading

***Fiction***

- What is happening in the picture?
- Can you find any words that have been repeated?
- Which is your favourite character?
- What would you ask your favourite character?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- What do you think will happen at the end of the story?
- Can you find any words that describe where the story is set?
- What happened in the story?
- Can you retell me the ending of this story?

***Non-fiction***

- How does the front cover tell us this is a factual book?
- Can you find the index? What is it for?
- Can you find the glossary? What is it for?
- How does the picture help us to understand?
- Why is there a label/ caption with the picture?