

General Top Tips for Year 1 Reading

By this point, your child is building up a range of reading skills. Now it's all about gaining more confidence so take a look at these top tips to help you get a good balance of reading for enjoyment and skills practice. We expect all children in Year 1 to read at home for 10 minutes every day. Please record in your child's planner the title of their book and any comments on their reading. When they have completed the book confidently, please write "ready to change" in their planner. We believe that reading is the gateway to learning and we appreciate your support.

Tip 1: *Listen to your child read*

Books that your child brings home from school will be at the right level. The words should be readable – we say they are levelled reading scheme books. These books are written to ensure steady progress and success. There are helpful notes and tips inside the front covers of many of the newer reading books.

Tip 2: *Sound it out*

If your child gets stuck on a word, try phonics first. Get your child to say the letter sounds and to then blend the sounds to read the word. Some words are tricky and cannot be blended. Many of these words will have been learned as sight vocabulary and practised in school.

Tip 3: *Clap and chunk*

Clapping out syllables or chunks in words and names can help with reading longer words: *Jump-er!* Or point out that some words are made up of two words, so *wind* and then *mill* makes *windmill*.

Tip 4: *Expression and flow – don't be afraid to track back!*

Your child might sometimes sound stilted on the first read of a sentence or a page. This is because they are focusing on making sounds into words. To keep your child hooked into the story read it again. This helps with meaning, flow and confidence – and we all still have to do this sometimes!

Tip 5: *Read, read, read!*

It's really important to read as much as possible with your child. Read books from school, books and magazines from home and borrow library books. Read signs and notices, and find interesting websites to read. Keep reading together at bedtime too!

There are lots of websites available where you can access e-books. The following website has been recommended by the City of York and is run by the company who publish many of the reading books we use in this school. The website is www.oxfordowl.co.uk. We are registered as a school and the website is free to use. The Year1 class log in is: **year1ld** and the password is: **year1ld**.

You can select books by genre, age and book bands. Your child's book band is the same as the coloured sticker on their school reading book. Remember your child should be able to read the chosen book confidently so don't struggle on with a book your child is finding tricky. Try using the audio button to listen to stories too!

Please do let us know if you have any questions and also let us know any comments about how you and your child find using the website.