

Developing reading with Bedford High School

Tips for reading with your child

You probably read with your children already, and I'm certainly not suggesting that you change something that's working for you. But, if you'd like some tips on reading with children based on the most recent research, read on...

1. **Do a fair amount of reading yourself.** If your child isn't the most expressive reader, and isn't using the punctuation to ensure the meaning is clear, then it can be hard for them to keep going. The meaning can be lost. If you jump in often to keep the pace high and model reading with the correct punctuation and emphasis it will really help.

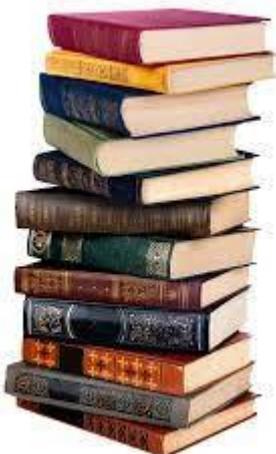
2. **Get the punctuation right.** Make sure that they're clear about what punctuation asks a reader to do. Comma - short pause. Full stop - longer, pause etc. and insist that they use it. Make the pauses much longer at first when reading together if they find this difficult to understand.

3. **Insist on reading with emphasis.** Assuming your child can read most of the words they come across, and use punctuation correctly, make sure they understand what exclamation marks, italics, ellipsis etc. mean when reading a text and insist they read with the correct expression. Reading with intonation is much more difficult than just saying the words. It forces them to think about context and meaning. Good readers like you do this naturally, but it's a step up for most young readers. It will help them improve as readers and bring your books to life.

4. **Get them to s..l..o..w down.** Allow students to take their time to get the word, punctuation or emphasis right. It is much more valuable to get things right slowly at first than to read quickly but make the same mistakes. Obviously there's a balance here, you don't want to kill a book by going so slowly they're bored, and you don't want to correct a reader so much that they lose confidence.



5. **Highlight your own mistakes.** It's a relatively hard skill to sight read with consistently correct punctuation and emphasis. Do what you're asking them to do: go back to unclear readings, read it again and say that you're doing it because you made a mistake.



~~mistakes~~
Mistakes
are
opportunities
to learn.

5 principles for great readers:

Practising anything has little or no benefit if whoever's practising it isn't challenged to think deeper or put more effort in. These simple techniques will allow this to happen, and therefore ensure readers get better quicker. What to say to them while they're reading or to ask them about what they've read...

There are five principles for great readers, and five kinds of questions that you can ask to help your child improve as a reader:

1. Get them to link what they're reading to other things that they know.
 - What does this remind you of?
 - Have we read something similar before?
 - Who does this remind you of?

2. Get them to answer questions about what they are reading.
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - How would you change the story?
 - Is this what you expected to happen?

3. Get them to tell you about what they are imagining.
 - What do you think they would like?
 - What are you imagining when you read that?
 - Have you seen something like that in real life?

4. Check understanding. Good readers realise when they don't understand something and go back. If your child gets lost ask them what they should do and let them try to find a way of understanding what they've read.

5. Get them to decide what the most important parts of the story that they're reading are. Good readers know which bits they need to concentrate on and which bits they can read less attentively. In the same way that we can scan a newspaper to find out what the important events in a news story are.