

Here's a quick guide to get the most out of sharing a book with your child.

Make a prediction:

- Use the front and back cover to talk about what the book might be about. The text on the back cover – called the 'blurb' – helps introduce the book to the reader.
- If your child isn't familiar with the subject or setting, this might also be a good point to explain a bit more about it to them.
- Don't give away too much, though – it's fun for children to learn about something for themselves!

Warm Up with the Before Reading Pages:

Practise blending the sounds together to read some of the words your child will come across in the book. The dots, dashes and smile lines will help them see the individual sounds making up each word.

The Before Reading pages prepare children for reading.

Say the sounds.

If your child needs help, point to the picture and read the word to them.

Read the focus

The dots show one sound one sound made by more

w



wave

z



zigzag

sh



sheep

ai



snail

ee



cheese

igh



knight

oa



boat

ar



star

or



horn

ur



purse

ear



ear

air



chair

wait

• _ _ •

sheep

• _ _ •

cars

• _ _ •

turns

• _ _ •

buses

• • • • •

airport

• _ _ • •

Check that your child can recognise the tricky words. These are words that can't be fully decoded yet so if your child needs help, read the whole word to them.

Read the tricky words.

Parts of these words cannot be sounded o Read the word to your child if they need

are

they

all

Point to each sound card and ask your child what the sound is. If they're not sure, there's a clue in the picture and the word underneath.

Talk About the Book as You Go:

It's important that children get the chance to think and talk about what they read, as they read it. Try to pause for a quick discussion every couple of pages or so.

You could ask them to:

- answer a question;
- give an opinion;
- explain what they have found out;
- try rereading a section so it's smoother and more fluent;
- explain what a word means.

This kind of 'talking around the book' helps children make sense of what they've read so they don't fall into the trap of reading fluently but without good comprehension.

Consolidate Learning with the After Reading Pages:

After Reading

Read these pages to your child and complete the activities together.

The After Reading pages support with understanding and comprehension.

Look at the pictures and retell the story.

Sequencing questions help children to think about the order of the whole story.

What is blocking the zigzag road?

How do you think Dad, Mum, Kit and Sam feel when they arrive at the airport?

Have you ever had to wait and wait for something? What were you waiting for? How did you feel?

Inference questions ask children to think 'beyond the text'.

Rhino Challenge!

- Talk to a grown-up about a journey you have been on.
- Where do you think Dad, Mum, Kit and Sam go to on the plane? Create a picture or a model of their destination.

This activity must be done under adult supervision. The adult is responsible for ensuring that the activity is safe.

Rhino Challenges help make the story memorable and link it to the child's own experiences.

Build Fluency with Rereading:

When your child first tackles a book with phonics that they have recently learned, their main focus will likely be on decoding the words and getting the blending right. However, if they reread the book they'll be much more familiar with the sounds and will be able to concentrate more on fluency and comprehension. That's why reading a book more than once can be really helpful.