

Blending

Blending is when you say the letter sounds (phonics) in a word and run them together to say a word
e.g. *d-o-g* makes dog.

If your child comes to a new word in their book they should 'sound it out', pointing underneath the press the 'sound button' for that letter, saying each sound quickly and loudly to help them 'hear' the word that is being read.

This is quite difficult at first and takes a lot of practise so in the beginning it can help to sound out the words with them.

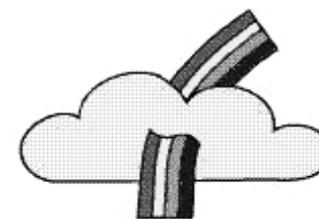
How to use the book bags...

- Listen to your child read
- Please fill in the comment box to let us know they have finished that book. We only need a signature or a little note about how they have done
- Return the book bag to school to be changed. We change the task in the book bags every Monday and Friday.

Thank you for supporting us and encouraging your child to look after our school books.

Please see your child's teacher if you would like any more information.

South Stanley Infant and Nursery School



Learning to read



The first steps

When your child first gets their book bag they will be reading wordless books.

As we learn the sounds that each of the letters makes we will send home 'sound books' so the children can practise recognising the letter sounds at home.

As the children become more confident at using their sounds and recognising words we will begin to send home books with simple words and captions in them.

Sharing books

Children love to 'read' even before they know what the words say.

It is important to value what they say and do as they begin to explore reading, so involve your child in story telling when sharing their favourite books at home.

- Let them choose their own books
- Encourage them to hold the book the correct way
- Ask them to turn the pages
- Ask them to show you where the title and words are
- Begin to encourage them to point to the words as they tell you the story, moving from left to right
- Talk about the pictures and what they can see
- Talk about what they think will happen next

Remember! It does not matter if the story they tell is not the same as the one that is written. It is all about constructing their own stories and celebrating their reading.

Wordless books

Some ideas to support your child when sharing wordless books together.

- Where does the story start?
- Who is in the story?
- What is happening here?
- Where are they?
- When did that happen?
- What did they say?
- How did that happen?
- Who did that?
- What might happen next?

You do not have to discuss all of these things every time.

Just choose your favourite ideas.

Encourage your child to use sentences and different words to describe what is happening.

It can be tempting to tell the story yourself, but give your child time to think of their own ideas!

Always praise their efforts!

First words

How to support your child with reading their first words.

- Ask them to point to the beginning of the word or sentence
- Encourage them to remember we read from left to right
- Get them to be a book detective! ...
- Look for tricky words that we can already read e.g. the, and, was (these are usually words that we cannot sound out because of their irregular spellings)
- 'Blend' new words, use letter sounds to hear the word (*see over for support with blending*)
- Encourage them to **listen to their own reading** to check it made sense, to fix mistakes, and most importantly, to **understand what they have read!**