

HOW TO HELP WITH READING HOMEWORK

- Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable, in a quiet corner, with the television turned off.
- Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning rather than absolute accuracy.
- If your child is sometimes reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book will also help to develop reading skills.
- Talk about the cover and read the title before rushing your child into the text, asking questions such as: what do you think it will be about; what sort of book is it; have you read one like this before.
- Look through the book, noticing interesting pictures and words, then read the opening together.
- Don't correct too quickly. If your child makes an error suggest having another go, searching the pictures for a clue, sounding out the first letter or reading on before you 'tell' the problem word.
- If your child is really struggling, take over the reading yourself and let the teacher know.
- As your child progresses, talk about authors, characters and plots or what new information has been learnt.
- If your child reads silently ask her to re-tell the part that has been read and encourage the 'pointing out' of relevant sections of the text.
- Join your local library together and use it regularly. Watch out for storytelling events, summer reads and reviews of new titles.

Based on an article by Judith Puddick from www.bbc.co.uk