**Top Tips**

**For Reading with Your Child at Home**

As we all know, there is a lot more to reading than just reading! Here are some tips to help during reading sessions with your child at home.

* What is happening? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read the text. What can you see?
* Discuss the meaning of words. Use a dictionary to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.
* Discuss alternative words. For example, 'big'. Ask your child to think of another word that means the same, e.g. 'huge' (use a thesaurus).
* Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
* Start at the end of the book. What do you think has happened before this point? Why do you think that?
* Discuss feelings. How do you think the characters are feeling? What has made them feel this way?
* Where is the story set? Have you read another story with the same setting? For example, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson are both set in the woods.
* Discuss the problem in the story. What has happened? What went wrong?
* Discuss the resolution. How was the problem solved? Is there another way it could have been resolved?
* Fact or fiction? Is this book a story book or a non-fiction book? How do you know?
* What have you learnt? What do you know now that you didn't know before reading the book?

**During Reading**

Encourage children to use expression when reading, especially for the voices of different characters .

Discuss the punctuation on the page, for example, exclamation marks. Ask: what are these for? What should you do when you see an exclamation mark?

You do not always have to read the entire book every night. Focus on 2 pages and talk about the characters, setting, and plot in a lot of detail. You might want to take it in turns to read so your child can hear how you read.