

My Child is Beginning to Read!



How can I best help errors in reading?

Based on the way most of us were taught to read, we have told the child to “sound it out” when he/she comes to an unknown word. While phonics is an important part of reading, reading for meaning is the primary goal. To produce independent readers who monitor and correct themselves as they read, the following prompts are recommended before saying, “sound it out.”

1. Give your child wait time of 5 to 10 seconds. See what he/she attempts to do to help him/herself.
2. “What would make sense there?”
3. “What do you think that word could be?”
4. “Use the picture to help you figure out what it could be.”
5. “Go back to the beginning and try that again.”
6. “Skip over it and read to the end of the sentence...now what do you think?”
7. “Put in a word that would make sense there.”
8. “Look at how the word begins. Start it out and keep reading.”
9. Tell your child the word.