

# READING TOGETHER 1<sup>st</sup> STEPS PARENT GROUPS

## HOW TO DO IT : THE MAIN POINTS

Few children learn to love books by themselves, someone has to show them the way. Parents can help their children to read. One of the biggest factors associated with success in learning to read is whether the child's reading is heard at home. Children can enjoy reading right up together to their teens.

When choosing a book always try to encourage your child to help with the choosing.



## WAYS TO SHARE A BOOK AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAISE

- Get the setting right; organise a special time and a special place with as few distractions as possible. Sit close to your child.
- Sometimes a story may lend itself to be read straight through, sometimes it is better to stop at an interesting page to chat about it. Discuss the story.
- Be expressive, give characters different voices.
- Sharing books helps to build your child's vocabulary which helps reading.
- Make it a happy time and look for opportunities to praise.

## GETTING STARTED, THE BEGINNING OF INDEPENDENT READING

- Children need to learn that we read left to right and the left page before the right.
- 3 main ways to teach a child to read:
  - (i) Look and Say; child learns the whole word.
  - (ii) Phonics; child learns the different sounds made by different letters and letter blends.
  - (iii) Real reading; child learns to use context, clues and knowledge of how language works.
  - (iv) To begin with, use easy books, read aloud together with the adult pointing to the words and the child reading together or fractionally behind.



## SUPPORTED READING

- Once your child gets started with reading, a well researched and successful approach to developing a child's reading is through supported reading.
- Supported reading has 2 main components:
  - (i) Parent and child read together at child's pace.
  - (ii) Child reads out loud on his own and is praised for correctly read words and corrections.
- Child can signal at any time to move from reading together to reading on his own.
- With early readers sometimes the adult has to judge when to stop reading.
- Reverting to reading together happens when child makes a mistake or is stuck.