

The top 5 tips to see your child fly with reading



Tip 1: Leap into the All Aboard app

Each day your child will get a fun session that builds on what they have learned in the classroom. You should have received an invitation from the school by email. That will link you into your child's school account on the app. The app uses lots of games to exercise the different skills needed for reading.

Tip 2: Go crazy with praise!

The truth is that it can be quite frustrating helping someone learn to read! The reason is that learning to read is hard. So, every little thing that goes right should be celebrated. Try to make a positive noise literally every few seconds. That will get your child's dopamine rising and stress levels falling. Always avoid criticising. It will increase stress and make things harder for your child.

Tip 3: Decode, decode, decode

If your child is a bright visual learner, they might naturally lean towards memorising whole words by sight, rather than working out the sounds from the letters. The problem is that most of us can read 15,000 words or more. Nobody can memorise that many! The key over the next few months is for your child to build the skill of decoding letters to sounds and blending those sounds into words. That will be the focus in the classroom and the app. Then your child will be able to read any word. So please do your best to get your child decoding words, not trying to memorise them.

Tip 4: Keep the text BIG enough

Some children have difficulty seeing close up things clearly. Because of that, it is essential to do reading practice with large text unless you are absolutely sure that smaller text is okay for your child. If you see any frustration with small text, watch our simple eye tracking video in our training suite on our website that will fix it.

Tip 5: Go for the Magic Reread

We recommend that you keep the session length down to around 10-15 minutes. But there is one technique that will double your child's progress, while seeming to slow them down. Once your child has finished decoding 3-5 words, it is essential for your child to reread those words until they are fluent. It might take 2-3 goes for them to succeed. You can say that this is the "Magic Reread" because it boosts their progress so much!

Answers to all your questions...

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It is based on the relationship between the sounds in words and the letters that represent those sounds. Initially, your child will be taught the sounds that each letter of the alphabet represents, for example the letter A represents the /a/ sound like in ant, apple and attic. You can watch our phoneme voicing videos in the training section of website to see how to say each phoneme (sound) your child will be taught.

What is All Aboard Phonics?

All Aboard Phonics is the programme that your child's school is using to teach phonics. It has been approved by the Department for Education and is based on tested and researched teaching methods.

What can I do at home to help?

- ⤴ Download the All Aboard app for additional phonics practice with games and activities on a phone or tablet. The lessons integrate with what your child is learning in school each day.
- ⤴ Do short daily reading sessions with your child, using the tips overleaf. We recommend keeping each session to just 10-15 minutes.
- ⤴ Do everything you can to make it stress free and fun for your child.

What is the phonics screening check?

All Year 1 pupils will take the national Phonics Screening Check which usually takes place in June. This is a short assessment, carried out 1:1 to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in their phonics skills. Each child is asked to read 40 words, half real words and half nonsense words. It may seem odd to be reading nonsense words, but the reason is that they check that your child has developed the ability to decode letter patterns to sounds and to blend those sounds into a word.

What if my child struggles with phonics?

Lots of children find learning to read hard and that's because it is hard! If your child is struggling with phonics more than average, their teacher will turn to our intervention process; All Aboard Phonics Plus. This will guide them through determining the most likely cause of difficulty for your child. It will suggest an action plan to follow to get your child back on track. Your child's class teacher may ask you to do some exercises or activities at home to support this. The most important thing you can do, however, is to continue to shower them in praise for each little success as they read. That should be every few seconds.

Can I get more training on how to help my child?

Of course! We're here to help. You can access our free bite-sized training videos via our website or on our Youtube channel.