

Helping Your Child to Read

When helping your child read at home, several strategies may be used to assist in working out unknown words:

1. Ask your child to get his/her mouth ready to say the word by shaping his/her mouth for the beginning sound that the first letter of the word makes.
2. Guide your child to look at the picture.
3. Tell your child to look for chunks in the word, such as “it” in “sit,” “all” in “small,” or “ing” in “standing.”
4. Ask your child if the word looks like a word he/she already knows. For example, “Does could look like should?”
5. Encourage your child to read until the end of the sentence. Often by reading the other words in context, he/she will be able to figure out the unknown word.
6. If your child says the wrong word while reading, ask questions such as:
 - ❖ Does it make sense?
 - ❖ Does it sound right?
 - ❖ Does it look right?

