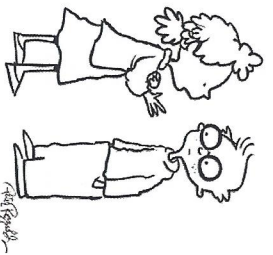


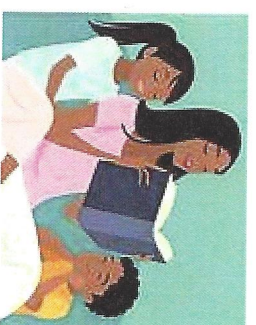
# Top Tips for Younger Readers 3-7 year olds



## It's good to share

### 1. Talk together

Talking about words and pictures is really important for building up a store of vocabulary and confidence – and it's fun too. The words may be in the street, in a book, on-screen or on your ketchup bottle; it really doesn't matter so long as you talk about them together.



### 2. Listen to your child practise reading

It's really important that your child reads aloud to you. Reading from a levelled reading scheme book, usually one that has come home from school, means there is built-in progression so your child can steadily get more confident as they move through the reading scheme. Most children will start with fully **decodable** phonic books.

### 3. Read together

There is something very magical about sharing a book with a child. Just 5-10 minutes at bedtime, bath time or quiet time really does help to hook them in. And even your 7 year old will still enjoy the sharing if it's on offer...



### 4. Check understanding

Use the pictures to help understanding, but also show your child how you might be able to predict what might happen next in a story from the words and pictures. Try to guess the ending! What clues were there?



### 6. Play games...

Use online phonics games to help children to read letter sounds and blend them together to read words. Use the word ladders sent home to help your child to learn **tricky words** by sight. Tricky words are those words that cannot be worked out by sounding out – like 'said'. You can find fun games on Hairy Phonics and Phonics Play. You can access free digital e-books and games on Oxford Owl!

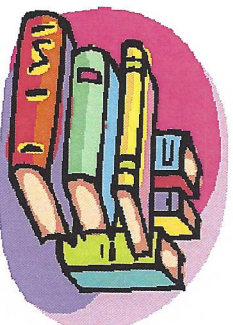
### 5. Use phonics first...

Help your child to learn phonic sounds as pure sounds – sss not sub. Be aware that some sounds, like sh in shop is one sound but two letters. When your child can break a word into its sounds to read it, then encourage them to write it out too.



### 7. Use book talk

Talking about stories and using story language helps to tune your child into reading. Talk about the author, illustrator, cover, the beginning, the end, words, sentences, features on the page, for example speech bubbles and pictures – it's 'book talk'!



### 8. New books but old favourites too

Your child will want to revisit an old favourite over and over again and that's great (although may be not after the 64th time). But it's also important to build confidence by reading lots of different books at the same reading level too, and continue to re-read earlier books so that you aren't pushing up the difficulty of the read too quickly and causing frustration (to be avoided at all cost as your child won't make progress if anxious).

