

Top Tips to Develop Reading Skills

Show your child print and text in their environment, like notices and signs.

Let your child see you read.

Read books to your child that they can't read themselves yet.

Visit a library.

Leave books around your child's environment.

Play first sound games (like I Spy) and other word games.

Listen to audiobooks – many of the Rhino Readers and Twinkl Originals can be accessed this way.

Read on devices.

Remember – keep activities short and fun and keep modelling that you love reading, too!



How Can I Help My Child with Their Rhino Readers Book?

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Rhino Readers books have some great features to help you make reading with your child as smooth and as easy as possible. Here's how to get the most out of sharing a book with your child.



Make a Prediction

- Use the front and back cover to talk about what the book might be about. The text on the back cover – called the 'blurb' – helps introduce the book to the reader.
- If your child isn't familiar with the subject or setting, this might also be a good point to explain a bit more about it to them.
- Don't give away too much, though – it's fun for children to learn about something for themselves!



Warm Up with the Before Reading Pages

Before Reading Say the sounds. If your child needs help, point to the picture and read the word to them.

Read the focus The dots show one sound one sound made by more

Practise blending the sounds together to read some of the words your child will come across in the book. The dots, dashes and smile lines will help them see the individual sounds making up each word.

The Before Reading Page prepares children for reading.

Point to each sound card and ask your child what the sound is. If they're not sure, there's a clue in the picture and the word underneath.

Check that your child can recognise the tricky words. These are words that can't be fully decoded yet so if your child needs help, read the whole word to them.

Read the tricky words: Parts of these words cannot be so Read the word to your child if they need

are they

Talk about the Book as You Go

It's important that children get the chance to think and talk about what they read, as they read it. Try to pause for a quick discussion every couple of pages or so. You could ask them to:

- answer a question;
- give an opinion;
- explain what they have found out;
- try rereading a section so it's smoother and more fluent;
- explain what a word means.

This kind of 'talking around the book' helps children make sense of what they've read so they don't fall into the trap of reading fluently but without good comprehension.

Consolidate Learning with the After Reading Pages

After Reading Read these pages to your child and complete the activities together.

Look at the pictures and retell the story.

The After Reading Page supports with understanding and comprehension.

Sequencing questions help children to think about the order of the whole story.

Recall questions ask children to remember and restate something they read.

Inference questions ask children to think 'beyond the text'.

Rhino Challenge!

- Talk to a grown-up about a journey you have been on.
- Where do you think Dad, Mum, Kit and Sam go to on the plane? Create a picture model of their destination.

This activity must be done under adult supervision. The adult is responsible for ensuring that the activity is safe.

Rhino Challenges help make the story memorable and link it to the child's own experiences.

Build Fluency with Rereading

When your child first tackles a book with phonics that they have recently learned, their main focus will likely be on decoding the words and getting the blending right. However, if they reread the book they'll be much more familiar with the sounds and will be able to concentrate more on fluency and comprehension. That's why reading a book more than once can be really helpful.

You'll likely find that as they read more books from a sublevel their fluency will improve but once they move up to the next sublevel, the process of getting the phonics correct and becoming fluent needs to start again. This is a very normal part of becoming a fluent reader. If you're worried about your child's fluency or their understanding of what they read, speak to their class teacher.