Reading

Hints for parents – helping at home.

READ EVERY DAY – make it a fun, happy time you share with your child.

Reader Levels 1 & 2 – Caption Books

Point with reading finger to develop 1 to 1 matching, following the line of text from left to right.

Text goes with the pictures.

- Tell your child the title of the book.
- Look through the book at the pictures to see what it is about and talk to your child about similar experiences he/she may have had.
- Read the book with your child as he/she points to the words.
- Child reads the book independently.

Reader Levels 3 +

Children begin to follow text with their eyes rather than finger.

There is a story line and the children begin to read text using the following strategies

1. Visual clues – letters in a word – did it look right?
2. Structure – grammar – did it sound right?
3. Meaning – text and picture - did it make sense?

Talk to your child about the book first before reading it, look at the pictures. Relate it to your child’s experiences.

- Tell your child any names or difficult words.
- Child reads book – use initial sound, pictures and structure of the text to predict words rather than sounding out each letter, as the children find it difficult to blend sounds together to make a word at this stage.

Please help your child work out the word, tell him/her as a last resort – the aim is independence.

- Error – let your child read to the end of the sentence and see if he/she realises the error.
  
  Ask – did that look right, sound right, make sense?
  
  Good readers make mistakes and then fix them.

- Children are encouraged to phrase words when reading (e.g. to the park, up the tree) and use expression for bold print and talking marks.

Sounds

- Play ‘I spy’ using picture cards.
- Practice writing the sound using the correct letter formation.
- Blend 2 and 3 sounds together to make simple words.