



## Listening to Children Read at School

### General Hints and Tips

- Remember that talking about reading is very important, so if someone seems a bit reluctant to read aloud, you can discuss a book to also develop their reading skills.
- Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning rather than absolute accuracy – if they substitute a word but it still makes sense, don't worry.
- Look through the book to start with to identify interesting pictures and words, then read the opening. This can help with predicting what might happen.
- Don't correct too quickly! Suggest having another go, or talk about a possible strategy to use, before you tell them the correct word.
- Be aware of the stages of progression in reading skills so that you can challenge them in their reading and comprehension.
- Children enjoy hearing about what you are reading about too!

### Comments you might want to write in the children's reading record books

There is a need to make constructive comments, but please make sure that they remain positive overall. Here are some suggested comments that you could write about the child you have just read with:

- Is beginning to read more expressively / *Read with expression* / Read with appropriate expression and intonation.
- Wasn't very enthusiastic today / *Read with enthusiasm* / Very enthusiastic with lots of discussion.
- Used initial sounds to work out words / *Recognised and used blends and other smaller words within words* / Identified and used spelling patterns to help work out unfamiliar words. (You might want to write down any particular words the child struggled with.)
- Discussed the use of full stops. Remember to pause next time. / *Responded well to full stops and commas, remembered to pause.* / Read well looking at all punctuation including speech marks, exclamation marks and paragraphs.
- Predicted what might happen in the story / *Predicted what might happen and explained why in detail* / Talked about the theme and genre of the book.

### Changing books

You will be given training by the LSA of the class on the process of changing books. If you have a concern about the level of book a child is on, or any other matter to do with any child's reading, please discuss this directly with the class teacher.

We very much appreciate the time that you give up to helping the children in our school to read 😊