



In reading there are a number of words that occur frequently in texts but are not regular when your child tries to decode them e.g. said. These words will need extra practise—ask at school which words your child is practising and then:

- Make them into flash cards and use them in any board game e.g. snakes and ladders, when they land they have to read to keep their place.
- Play snap with two sets
- Beat the clock—aim to improve their time each day
- Make the words on large paper and they have to hop on-to the word as you call it out. Be imaginative in devising games!

You could also try: taping your child when they are reading and playing back and see if they can spot any mistakes. You could also tape the story for them to listen to regularly to increase their confidence and accuracy for when they try to read.

If you find that reading time is not a pleasure for both of you, try a different book, a different time or different circumstances, and if you have any concerns discuss this with your child's teacher and **REMEMBER:**

.....good parenting is more important than specialist teaching; parents can help their child most by being loving and supportive, and keeping things in perspective.

LEARNING TO READ IS DIFFERENT TO READING FOR PLEASURE!

Never worry about reading TO your child-sharing a book is a valuable experience at any age.



Helping Your Dyslexic Child Read



Common problems among dyslexic readers:

- May be able to read the text but will not get the sense of it when they finish
- Misread words for ones that are similar
- May omit or confuse small words when reading
- May ignore punctuation
- May read slowly
- May lose their place on the page when reading

Consider before you start:

- Dyslexics may learn a concept fast, but they will forget just as fast. They will need lots of revision and repetition.
- Criticism kills! Praise gives power!
- Be flexible—negotiate a time to suit you both!
- Dyslexics have good and bad days
- Lots of short activities are needed to keep focussed
- Dyslexics get very tired. They have to concentrate harder and so they get tired quicker.
- Make 'em laugh! Make it fun! Have a sense of humour. We learn best when we are enjoying ourselves. Making learning fun will ensure that your child will want to go on learning for the rest of their life. Dyslexics often take longer to 'get going' in the academic world, often carry on improving and developing long after other students have stopped.
- Don't despair! Where you can make a task into a game.

Supporting your child when reading:

- Set aside a regular time—make yourselves quiet and comfortable
- Choose a book—negotiate! Even if it is one they have read many times it is valuable reading experience. Interest is a big initiative to read!
- Look at the book cover, title and info on the back cover. Talk about what the book might be about.
- Talk the book through together—this may involve leafing through the book, talking about what is happening in illustrations or pointing out names that might be hard to read later. This may only take two to three minutes but is valuable in giving confidence and understanding.
- Tracking with a finger or line guide often helps if your child loses their place. It can also help increase speed if you encourage your child to read as you track.
- Let your child read the book to you. If they get stuck on a word you can help by:
 - ⇒ talking about the sounds or syllables in the word
 - ⇒ Find a word within a word (e.g. big—bigger)
 - ⇒ Point to a picture clue
 - ⇒ Read out the word and then re-read the sentence
 - ⇒ Point to a similar word that they have already read (e.g. bake—shake)
- Consider pair reading if your child is tired—you do a line/ paragraph etc and I'll do a line/ paragraph
- Talk about the book at the end
- Thank them for reading to you