

Reading Ideas and Resources- First Level

These activities can be used either with books from home or with a reading book from school.

Before Reading

- Discuss the title and the front cover. What do each of you think the book will be about?
- Predict what you think might happen in the story.
- Read the blurb and talk about whether that has changed your expectations.
- Look for the title, author and illustrator on the front cover. Discuss what these words mean.

During Reading

- Point out and discuss features of book e.g. capital letters, full stops, words, finger spaces between words, sentences, chapters, punctuation features (question marks, exclamation mark, speech marks, ellipsis etc)
- Encourage your child to hunt for any of their tricky words on the page (I, the, to etc)
- Discuss the meaning of any unknown words or new vocabulary in the story
- Hunt for nouns, verbs and adjectives in the story

After Reading

- Talk about the story using the 'Bloom's Questions for Reading' sheet. Take it in turns to ask and answer.
- Retell the story with a beginning, middle and end (they could draw it, act it out, make puppets etc)
- Discuss favourite character or favourite part of the story. Talk about why that is their favourite.
- Draw a character, place or object from the story.
- Write to the author with your thoughts/questions about the book
- Create a timeline detailing the main events in the story
- Imagine you have 'travelled' into the book you are reading. Re-write a part of the story including what you would do if you were one of the characters.
- Write an epilogue about what happens to the characters after the book ends.
- Make a list of questions to ask someone who has also read the story

To revise letter sounds you can also use the excellent BBC bitesize literacy resources <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zjrhmf>