

## Top tips for reading

Read the title together.
Look at the picture on the front cover – discuss what the book might be about.
Read together the blurb on the back cover. Predict what might happen in the story.
Allow the child to turn the pages themselves – the book should be flat and directly in front of them.
Look at the title page and read title again. Notice the name of the author and illustrator.
Before reading the words in the book, look together at the pictures on each page, discussing what is happening.
Allow the child to use Fred talk to sound out unfamiliar words themselves, e.g., c-a-t, cat.
If they read a word incorrectly encourage them to go back to the beginning of the sentence and read it again to check it makes sense and that it sounds right.
Encourage the child to use punctuation when reading, e.g., pause for a full stop or comma. Also take notice of exclamation marks, speech marks and question marks.
Encourage the child to read with expression, particularly when reading the speech of a particular character. You can model this to them when you read bedtime stories.
Finally, check that they have understood the story by asking them to retell it, or ask questions about what happened in the story. How do the characters feel at different points in the story?