

Walking Through a Book

When children pick up a book, it is important that they know what the main ideas are before they attempt to read it - just like we, as adults, suss out a book before we decide to read it by reading the blurb (information on the back of the book), looking at the front cover and maybe having a quick look at the way the pages are laid out inside.

With younger children, walking through a new book would consist of:

- telling them what the title of the book is
- identifying the names of the main characters (pointing to the characters in the pictures and finding the names in the text so that they are not thrown when they come across these words)
- discussing what is happening in the pictures
- working on 2-3 words together that may be hard for your child but that, with help, they can work out
- picking out 1-2 phrases to practise reading with expression - model the phrase yourself first using your story voice and then get your child to practise

Never read a whole sentence to your child as we do not want them to think that reading and remembering a text are the same thing.

After you have walked through the book with your child, get them to have a first read of the book or section of the book that you have looked at. Remember, it won't be perfect and they may need to problem-solve to get to the correct response. If they are stuck prompt them to sound out the word, look at the pictures, think about what sounds right or use their finger, as appropriate. Try to get them to solve it before you step in - remember, if we are given something to read out loud, we like to practise it first. This is your child's practise time.

Finally, remember to praise them. Tell them two things that you really liked about their reading or how they solved a problem. If they feel good about their reading, they will be more likely to want to read the book to you a second time tomorrow.

If you have any questions about walking through a book with your child or would like to see a live example, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Chapman.