

## **Volunteer Helpers 1 Helping Reading In The Classroom**

**We want reading and sharing of books to be a pleasurable and rewarding experience.**

**Your role as a volunteer is primarily to:**

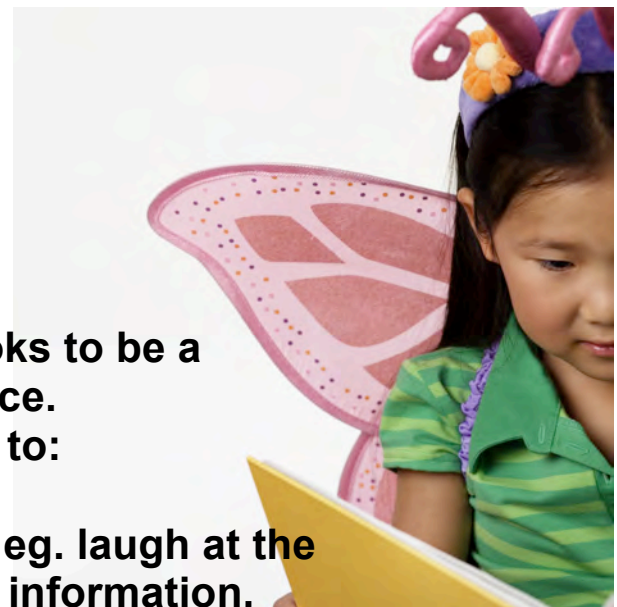
- **Be a responsive audience**
- **Share the pleasure of the story eg. laugh at the humour, be impressed with the information, ponder on the ideas and ask questions- demonstrate attentive listening and responses**
- **Provide expertise eg help with unfamiliar words, explaining the meaning of words or phrases, suggest similarities with other stories/books**
- **Model- read some sections aloud demonstrating the use of punctuation, pace and intonation**

**Your role is not to teach reading but it is useful to be aware of some strategies used and remind children of these to encourage independence.**

**Reading Strategies:**

- **Phonics- segmenting and building phonemes(the smallest units of sound)**
- **Looking for patterns/rhymes**
- **Looking for known words within the word and building outwards**
- **Contextual/semantic cues-what would make sense**
- **Missing a word and reading on to make sense before returning to unknown word**
- **Using picture cues-what is going on?**
- **Looking at shape and length of word**

**Always let the child hold the book and turn the pages when they are reading. Encourage them to point to each word as it is read.**



However, your role is more valuable as someone who can encourage the children to talk about the text, characters, layout and ideas in the book and become a responsive reader rather than just a decoder.

This can be achieved by modelling these skills eg:

“I think the cat is quite clever because she.... What do you think?”

“I wonder what will happen next?”

“This story reminds me of a traditional fairytale because...”

“ I’m glad the book has such clear diagrams as they help me to understand.”

“ I think the writer has really described the characters/settings/events well.”

“Why did X do that?”

“I’ve got a pet dog like that...do you have any pets like that?”

“Let’s make up some rhymes like these of our own.”

“I wonder what that word means...we could use the glossary/or a dictionary”

It is also important that you read to the child.

This demonstrates reading as a pleasurable activity, it provides adult modelling of phrased and fluent reading, it develops a sense of story and a knowledge of written language syntax, it expands linguistic repertoire and promotes language development.

When you are reading to a child always ensure that they can see the text too.

**REMEMBER- RELAX AND ENJOY!**

