

Listening to My Child Read: Questions Parents Ask

1. How can I help?

- Your role is to provide support. Don't try to be the teacher.
- Praise your child's reading.
- Enjoy reading together; reading should be fun.
- If it gets frustrating, stop listening and start reading.

2. What can I do when my child stops at a hard word? Say...

- "That's a hard part, you found it!"
- "What can you do to help yourself?"
- "Can you reread?"
- "Let's reread the whole sentence together."
- "What word would make sense?"
- "What word would sound right?"
- "Could it be _____?" (suggest a word to try)

3. What can I do after a mistake has been made?

Let the child read on. The child will either notice the mistake or not notice it.

- If the mistake makes sense, let the child read on.
- If the mistake doesn't make sense, use one or more of the questions listed under number 2.

4. When can I tell the word?

- Use common sense. You know your child best.
- If you think your child may not understand what the word means, tell the word.
- If the book seems too hard, read it together, or read it to your child.
- Don't feel guilty when you tell your child a word.