

What to do if your child is stuck on reading a word?

Sound it out	Start with the first letter, and say each letter-sound out loud. Blend the sounds together and try to say the word. Does it sound right?
Chunking	Look for familiar 'chunks' of letters. They may be sounds, prefixes, suffixes, endings, whole words, root words. Read each chunk by itself. Then blend the chunks together and sound out the word. Does that word make sense in the sentence?
Reread the sentence to read around the word.	Read the sentence around the word. Think about what word might make sense in the sentence- list a few alternatives that might fit. Do these words have a common meaning? Try these words and see if the sentence makes sense.

Question starters to check your child understands the text:

Can you explain the meaning of words in context?	Give the meaning of the word X in this sentence. Find and copy one word meaning X Find and copy one word that suggests/shows that ...
Can you retrieve and record information?	Where/when does the story take place? Who are the key characters? Who was the character that...? Show me in the text where you found...? Make true or false statements for child to respond to. Find two things that the main character did in this part of the story. What happened after...?
Can you make inferences from the text?	How can you tell that ...? Give evidence. What impressions of do you get? Why do you get these impressions? How do you know that...? What evidence is there of...? What do you learn about...? Explain. How is the character feeling? How do you know? Why did X behave this way? How do you know? Based on what you have read, what do you think is most likely to happen next? Why?
Can you summarise main ideas from a text?	What is happening at this point/part? Which paragraph tells you about...? What can you tell me from reading this paragraph? Explain how the story ended? Did you like it?