

Some ideas that can be used when responding to a book....

Words

- Play a game to search for a specific tricky word or words in the book. This is also a good game to play before reading the book as it can help your child recognise the word when they do read the book.
- Look out for words containing the sounds we have learned - again this could be done before or after reading the book.
- Can you see words hidden within words (and/is/it/up)?

Punctuation

- Talk about the different sorts of punctuation you can see in the book, how they are being used and how this affects the way we should read (. ! ? " ")
- Can you make a sentence that needs a question mark or an exclamation mark? This activity could just be done orally or written down.
- Count the sentences on a page, where are the full stops and capital letters?
- Talk about the use of capital letters - (beginnings of sentences but also explain that names always have a capital letter even though they may not be at the start of a sentence). You could write out some capital letters.

Responding to the book - comprehension.

- It is always important to check that your child has understood the content of the story and to encourage discussion around this.
- A comprehension question could be answered directly from the book e.g. what did Chip do on page 4?
- Paul what was the first/last thing that happened in the story?
- A comprehension question could be more reflective e.g. "Why do you think... Chip did that?" or "How do you think that made Chip feel?"
- Any question beginning with why or how requires your child to explain and show understanding and so is good for their own language development too.
- Can you retell the story in your own words using the pictures to help you? (orally)

Characters

- Talk about the characters and what they are like.
- How has the character changed through the story?
- Who was your favourite character - why?

Can you relate the story to your own experiences?