

## Reading at Home

### 5 finger rule

- Use the 5 finger rule to choose an appropriate level of book for your child to read independently.
- Allow your child to open the book at a random page.
- Ask them to begin reading.
- Ask your child to raise one finger each time they come to a read they cannot read.



1 finger	Too easy.
2 fingers	Just right! Enjoy.
3 fingers	Challenging! Give it a go.
4 fingers	Very challenging. Try with a partner.
5 fingers	Too difficult. Have an adult read it to you.

### Effective Questioning

Try to get involved in some discussion during/after you child's reading. Questioning will confirm understanding.

Try to ask open ended questions which require more thought.

Examples could include...

1. What do you think might happen next?
2. Why do you think the character is happy/sad?
3. Where/when does the story take place? How do you know?
4. Why do you think the author choose that setting?
5. Can you give the book a new title based on what happened?
6. What do the character's actions tell you about him/her.



## Independence

Encourage your child to be independent in their reading. Give them time to try difficult words. Encourage them to develop the reading strategies below.

 <p><b>Eagle Eyes</b> Look at the pictures for clues to help figure out the words.</p> 	 <p><b>Lips the Fish</b> Get your lips ready to say the first few sounds of the word.</p> 	 <p><b>Stretchy Snake</b> Stretch the sounds out S-l-o-w-l-y to figure out the word.</p> 
 <p><b>Skippy Frog</b> Skip the word and read to the end of the sentence...then hop on back and try again.</p> 	 <p><b>Chunky Monkey</b> Look for a smaller chunk you know inside the word.</p> 	 <p><b>Tryin' Lion</b> Look back over the word or sentence and use another strategy to "try again".</p> 
 <p><b>Dot the Giraffe</b> Look at the punctuation and read with</p> <p>Exp<sup>r</sup>ession . , ? !</p> 	 <p><b>Flippy the Dolphin</b> If the short vowel sound doesn't make sense then try the long vowel sound.</p> 	 <p><b>Helpful Kangaroo</b> If you have tried all of the other strategies and still aren't sure... ask for help.</p> 