Helping your child to read is a precious gift. Below are some helpful hints to assist you in making home reading a positive and worthwhile experience for you and your child.

**Helpful Hints for Home Reading**

- Make a regular time everyday for reading.
- Be patient and praise your child for their efforts.
- Become a regular reader yourself. This will develop a lifelong positive attitude towards reading in the home.
- Involve your child in selecting books from public libraries and the school library.
- Find topic books that your child is interested in e.g. fairies, dragons (remember every child is different.)

**Before Reading**

- Talk about the book. What do you think it might be about?
- Look at the cover and the pictures. Talk about your ideas.
- Have you read a book before that is similar to this one? For example, The Bears in Goldilocks or a factual book about bears. Compare the similarities and differences.

**After Reading**

Some question ideas:
1. What was the story about?
2. Did you enjoy the book?
3. What was your favourite part of the book?
4. Name all of the characters?
5. Which character was your favourite and why?
6. Which part of the story would you change?
7. How could you change the ending?
8. Also use QAR type questions.

Remember reading is all about **MAKING MEANING**. As adults we can all decode a medical journal or scientific report as we have learnt to **decode words**. However to **understand** what we have just read is challenging unless you are a professional in that specialized field. Remember to always ask: **What was the text (story) about?** If your child can answer you with at least 5 to 10 facts/events in sequence, they are well on their way to learning to read for meaning. Remember to always praise your child for their efforts.

**HAPPY READING!**