

PHONICS & READING FLUENCY

An Activities Guide for Families

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At Home Activities

Nature Walk Hunt

Write a simple scavenger hunt list with words like twig, rock, mud, and bug. Go on a walk. Your child reads the list while you find the items together.

Password

Write 5–10 sight words (ask your child's teacher for a list) on scraps of paper or sticky notes. Tape them to doorways. To enter the room, your child has to read the password on the paper.

Recorded "Audiobook"

Use a voice memo or voice recording app on your phone. Have your child record themselves reading a page. Play it back for them. When they hear themselves stumble, they usually want to "re-record" it to make it sound better. This self-correction is a massive fluency booster.

Silly Voice Challenge

Have your child read a short paragraph or a few sentences three times. The first time, they read it in a ghost voice; the second time, in a robot voice; the third time, in their best "grown-up" voice. Rereading the same text builds speed, and the voices keep it from feeling like a chore. Change up the voices each time you play.

Character Theater

Pick a book with dialogue. You read the "narrator" parts (the plain text) and your child reads what the characters say in the quotation marks.

Flashlight Reading

Turn off the lights and give your child a flashlight (could be the flashlight on your phone). While reading a book, your child "points" the beam of light at each word as they read it.

Did You Know?

There is no single part of the human brain designed for reading. Unlike speaking, which comes naturally, reading requires your child to build brand new bridges between the 'vision' part of their brain and the 'language' part.

