



Tips for Reading at Home

Regular reading at home is one of the best ways for your child to improve their comprehension and expand their vocabulary. Students should be reading at least **60 minutes a week** at home (15 minutes 4 times per week). Practice makes progress! Even if you don't speak French, there are still a lot of ways you can support your child at home!

Suggestions for reading at home

Encourage your child to **make predictions** before beginning. Using clues from the title, images or summary on the back will help to activate any prior knowledge they may have so that they can better decode new vocabulary they encounter.

Have your child read a book more than once. Especially in a second language, children need to practice new vocabulary to become fluent readers. Generally it is suggested that students read a text at least 3 times:



1. On the first read, the goal is **comprehension**. Try not to focus too much on pronunciation, but instead on understanding the main ideas. After the first reading, your child should be able to give a brief re-tell (Who? What? Where? Then... Next... Finally).
2. During the second reading, the goal is to develop **word-solving skills**. Encourage them to take time to stop and examine any words that are new. Are there parts of the word they already know? What sounds do they recognize? Can they break the words into syllables? What do they think the word might mean? If they get really stuck on a word, have them write it in their agenda and share it with the class the next day. We can work together to decode it!
3. On the third reading, the goal is to achieve **fluency**. You may ask your child to practice reading the book on their own (or a section if it's a longer book) and then present it to you when they feel comfortable. Fluent reading should include an appropriate rate (not too fast, not too slow), adherence to punctuation and expression.

Make reading a part of their **nightly routine**. Reading for 15 minutes is a great way to help children settle and relax before going to bed.

If your child seems to be having a lot of difficulty with re-tell or decoding, they are most likely bringing home books that are too hard for them. We will be discussing how to choose a **'just right' book** in class, but if they still seem to be having difficulty please let me know and I can help them pick out something more appropriate.

Most importantly, try to make reading a **positive experience**. Offer a lot of encouragement and try to focus on the skills they are using, rather than errors that are made. The overall goal is simply to get them to read. If you find your child is getting frustrated reading, allow them to read their book independently once or twice and have them share their reading when they feel more comfortable or confident.