How To Listen To Kids Read Aloud

If the child is reading aloud and makes an error….

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WAIT! Let the child finish the sentence. Don’t immediately correct him or her. *The goal is that the child will self-monitor and self-correct.*

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Child corrects the error ☺ Still wrong

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 Say: “Fix it.”

 “Check it.”

 “Something’s not right.”

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Child corrects the error ☺ Still wrong

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 Think: What kind of error is it?

**Comprehension**: “Does that make sense?”

**Grammar/Syntax**: “Does that sound right?”

**Decoding**: “Does that look right?”

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 Child corrects the error ☺ Still wrong

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Help with a specific strategy (picture clue, skip and come back, think about the first sound, etc.)

**Comprehension check after reading:** If the child’s reading level is A-G, ask what the book was mostly about, what else happened and the ending. If the child’s reading level is H-Z, ask the child to retell the beginning, middle and end of the story.

How Do I Use These Prompts?

\*Sit with your child so you can both see the book.

\*Choose only one or two prompts to use each time you listen to your child read aloud.

\*Prompts focus on decoding, comprehension or fluency. Vary the types of prompts you use.

\*Note if your prompts are for use **before**, **during** or **after** reading.

\*Is your child reading fiction or non-fiction? Select prompts that fit the book. Many prompts fit either.

\*Make it a two-way conversation not a quiz. Think “book club” not “worksheet.”

\*Keep it joyful! Reading with your child should be relaxing and enjoyable!

\*Know that you are helping your child develop higher-order thinking skills, deeper comprehension, fluency, confidence and an association of reading with pleasure.

**"When I say to a parent, "read to a child", I don't want it to sound like medicine. I want it to sound like chocolate. " — Mem Fox**