



How to Support your Child with Turquoise and Purple Books

Children reading Turquoise and Purple books are learning :

Mechanical reading skills

- Integrate phonic strategies with cues from the meaning and language structure e.g. knowledge of the text and sentence structures.
- Sustain reading with appropriate intonation and fluency to support meaning.
- Blend phonemes to help read unfamiliar words in texts.

Showing understanding (comprehension)

- Recall the main events or facts.
- Make simple comments on obvious features by referring back to the text, e.g. main character, beginning, middle and end.
- Use an understanding of the text to make simple predictions and give opinions on characters' actions.

Knowing how texts work

- Identify and discuss the way texts are organised, e.g. headings or the structure of a story.
- Begin to identify a range of punctuation within a text.

Your child will be able to do some of these things more easily than others. If there is something that they find difficult, practising it at reading time at home will help them develop their reading skills.

Mechanical Reading

By the time children can confidently read Purple books they are able to bring together all the reading strategies that they have learnt. They are thinking about what the text means as they read it and can correct themselves if the text does not make sense. Their expression and fluency shows understanding. You could encourage your child to think about the expression or their reading and read it yourself to model good expression and intonation. Some children might enjoy being videoed reading to see what their expression is like!

Showing Understanding

You might like to talk about changes that happen during the story to encourage your child to think about the different parts of the narrative e.g. How did the character feel at the start? How about at the end? What happened to make them feel that way?

Pause part of the way through to think about what might happen, particularly when there is a 'problem' in the story. If you are reading the book over two or more nights, get your child to re-cap what has happened so far, before you begin to read again.

How texts work

Look at the different punctuation that is in the book. What does it tell us? Talk about the different expression we use for a question. Why might there be an exclamation mark? (e.g. loudness; anger; excitement: can your child use a different expression/voice for each of these?)