

## Supporting your child at home with Read Write Inc. in years 1 and 2

[https://youtu.be/jBx5Q1\\_nAEg](https://youtu.be/jBx5Q1_nAEg)

### **Which books should we read at home?**

We hear your child read every day from their Read Write Inc. book. On Thursdays, we send this book home with another book from our Book Band box. Please read the Read Write Inc. book with your child, ideally every evening, as it will give them the opportunity to practice the sounds and words that they have been learning at school. It does not matter if they find the book 'easy', as it will help them to begin to sight read the words and build up their confidence. If you want to read something else with them in addition to the Read Write book, the other book will be broadly at the right level for them, although not an exact match.

### **What are the different pages in the Read Write Inc. book for?**

At the beginning of the Read Write Inc. book are pages for the children to practice their speed sounds, green words, red words and challenge words. Red words are words that you cannot read using phonics, such as 'said'. They just need to be learnt. You can turn these pages into a game. You could dot around the page or get them to be the teacher and do the same to you!

At school, we introduce the vocabulary page to the children so they know what some of the words mean. It would be good to go through this at home, so the meanings of these words become more concrete in your child's head.

When we read the story at school, the children work in pairs and alternate reading the pages. You could do the same.

At the end of the book are questions to talk about and questions to read and answer. These questions support your child's comprehension skills. You could do these if you like.

### **How often should we practice and for how long?**

You will not be able to get through all of this every day, so we would suggest you do bits of it, but most importantly read the stories several times during the week. We would suggest not spending longer than 15 minutes at a time and make it a special time free from distractions.

### **How should we pronounce the letter sounds?**

It is important that you pronounce the letter sounds correctly, as Read Write Inc. teaches the children 'pure sounds', which are slightly different to the sounds you might have used at school. Ruth Miskin, who invented Read Write Inc. has produced this very short video to help. It is only three minutes long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Qxx>

### **What should I do if my child 'gets stuck' on a word?**

The first thing to do is be patient. We teach the children to break the word down into its sounds, which we call 'Fred Talk'. So, if your child is stuck on 'foolish', ask them to break the word up into sounds f- oo- l- i- sh and then blend it back together to form the word. Be really positive with them; if they are still stuck, model breaking the word down and putting it back together again and then ask them to do it. It is important to spend time on tricky words.

Some words are tricky because you can't break them down like this. We call them red words. These are words like 'said', 'the', 'they'. Tell them this word, but write it on a card and make a pack of red words that you can practice later.

**What should I do if my child doesn't want to read?**

This can be tricky, because the last thing you want to do is make reading a battle of wills. We would suggest that you make it part of your evening or morning routine, so it is just something you do. Start by making it a short session, maybe just reading the speed sounds to begin with. You could read alternate pages or have a small reward at the end. If you are having difficulties, please talk to us and we will try to help.