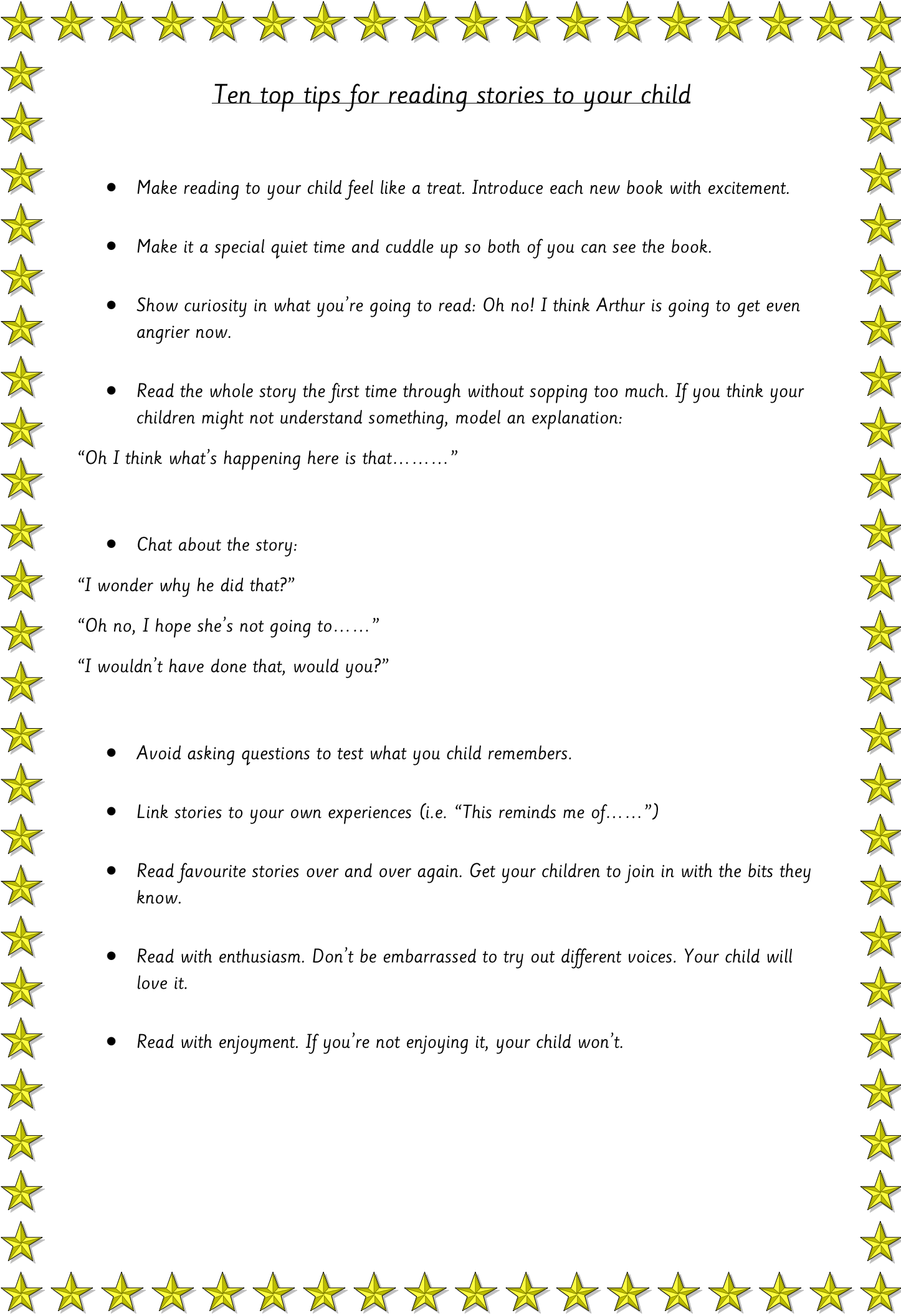


Reading At Home

Until the children have been taught the first initial phonics sounds, they will be provided with wordless picture books. These books are key in supporting children's early reading skills. We have included a few helpful hints for supporting your children with wordless picture books and reading stories books at home.

Top tips for reading wordless picture books with your child

- Recognise that there are no "right" or "wrong" ways to read a wordless book. One of the wonderful benefits of using wordless books is how each child creates their own story (or stories!) from the same pictures.
- Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.
- Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Enjoy the illustrations, which are often rich with detail. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the setting and the use of colour. Talk to each other about what you see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.
- Enjoy the pictures and point out a few things, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Have characters use different voices, add sound effects, and use interesting words in your version of the book.
- Encourage your child to "read" you the book with their own story. Focus on the words your child uses when they tell the story. Help your child expand their sentences or thoughts by encouraging them to add information from the illustration's details. One way to encourage more details is by asking questions: Who? Where? When? Why?
- Finish your wordless book sharing by asking a few simple questions: What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favourite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?



Ten top tips for reading stories to your child

- Make reading to your child feel like a treat. Introduce each new book with excitement.
- Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.
- Show curiosity in what you're going to read: *Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.*
- Read the whole story the first time through without sopping too much. If you think your children might not understand something, model an explanation:

"Oh I think what's happening here is that....."

- Chat about the story:

"I wonder why he did that?"

"Oh no, I hope she's not going to....."

"I wouldn't have done that, would you?"

- Avoid asking questions to test what you child remembers.
- Link stories to your own experiences (i.e. *"This reminds me of....."*)
- Read favourite stories over and over again. Get your children to join in with the bits they know.
- Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.