

Top Tips for Bedtime Reading at Home

- Find a special place
- Find somewhere with no distractions
- Make sure you can both see the book
- Keep roughly to the same time each day
- 10 minutes is long enough, don't force your child if they are not interested
- Cuddle up together
- Talk about the pictures you don't need to read the whole book
- Relate the story to real life, make links to your child's experiences
- It's ok to read the same story over and over again. This shows you have a child who loves books and is on the way to becoming an enthusiastic reader
- Take the lead from your child
- You don't have to start at the beginning, you can skip pages, you don't have to finish the book and you can change the words
- Let your child take turns
- Choose books with rhythm and rhyme
- If your child isn't interested in books try something different-magazines, comics or audio stories
- Use expression, speak in a lively, animated voice and use gestures, facial expressions or even props to back up the words
- Encourage your child to tell you the story – take what your child says and add one or two more words to build on what they have said
- **Have fun!**

