

Reading Begins at Home

April

Fluency:

Prefixes and Suffixes- Have your child practice reading words with common prefixes and suffixes. Write the words on two index cards and play Go Fish, Old Maid, Memory and practice with flashcards. See your teacher for an appropriate list.

Decoding Difficult Words:

Look for Chunks in the Word

Look for familiar letter chunks. They may be sound/symbols, prefixes, suffixes, endings, whole words, or base words. Read each chunk by itself. Then blend the chunks together and sound out the word. Does that word make sense in the sentence?

Connect to a Word You Know

Think of a word that looks like the unfamiliar word. Compare the familiar word to the unfamiliar word. Decide if the familiar word is a chunk or form of the unfamiliar word. Use the known word in the sentence to see if it makes sense. If so, the meanings of the two words are close enough for understanding.

Non-Book Reading Activities:

- **Get cooking.** Invite your child to help you bake a cake or a special meal together. If necessary, simplify and rewrite a recipe's instructions so he can read it to you. Also try kid cookbooks like *The Magic Spoon*, which has fun recipes and entertaining directions for her to read.
- **Create signs and lists.** Chores, daily schedules, and activities can all be posted in a place where your child can easily find them. When they ask about the day's plan, direct her toward the schedule or list to read and find out for herself.

Tips for Listening to Your Child Read:

Notice patterns. If your child repeats the same kinds of errors frequently, mention this to the teacher. A pattern of similar mistakes may be a sign of trouble. The teacher can help determine if there is an issue that needs more attention.

