

Reading is an important skill that people use daily. We will be devoting a lot of time each school day to reading by providing reading instruction, reading aloud to the children, and providing time for the children to silently read (also known as DEAR: Drop Everything And Read). However, it is vital that the students also read at home. This includes reading aloud to the children, reading with the child, and listening to the child chorally read.

There are many benefits to reading aloud to children. Some of these benefits include:

1. Improving the child's reading, writing, speaking, listening, and their attitude about reading.
2. Building the child's comprehension rate
3. Allowing the child to use critical thinking skills.
4. Modeling the skills of reading to the child
5. Expanding the child's vocabulary
6. Making the child aware of the structure of stories and of other types of text.

Your child is still in the beginning phases of reading. It is common for your child to come across words that they do not know. The following is a list of techniques to help your child when they come to an unknown word.

1. Skipping the unknown word and coming back to it once the child reaches the end of the sentence.
2. Asking the child what word would make sense.
3. Using the child's background knowledge to provide a context clue.
4. Looking at the length of the word and asking the child if the word they guessed it too long or short.
5. Asking the child if the word they guessed sounds right and if they have ever heard someone say that before.
6. Asking what letter the word begins or end with and what sound that letter makes.
7. Asking if there are any parts of the word that the child knows.
8. Breaking a compound word into parts.
9. Guess and check with the letters in the word and the sounds that those letters make.

Be cautious when helping your child with an unknown word. Do not always rely on the common command of "sound it out." Not all words can be sounded out such as the word "the". If you need help providing cues while your child is reading, feel free to contact me with any questions.