

## Reading Prompts

Based on the way that many of us were taught to read, we have told our child to "sound it out" when he/she comes to a word that they do not know. While phonics is an important part of reading, *reading for meaning is the primary goal*. To produce independent readers who monitor and correct themselves as they read, the following prompts are recommended before saying "sound it out."

First, give your child wait time of 5 to 10 seconds. See what he/she attempts to do to help him/herself.

Next ask your child:

- What would make sense there?
- What do you think that word could be?
- Use the picture to help you find out what it could be.
- Go back to the beginning and try that again.
- Skip over it and read to the end of the sentence. What do you think it is?
- Put in a word that would make sense.
- You read that word before on another page. See if you can find it.
- Look at how that word begins. Start it out and keep reading.
- Tell your child the word.

### Affirmations

Most important, focus on what your child is doing well and attempting to do. Remain loving and supportive. When your child is having difficulty and trying to work out the trouble spots, comments such as the following are suggested.

- Good for you. I like the way you tried to work that out.
- That was a good try. Yes, that word would make sense there.
- I like the way you looked at the picture to help yourself.
- I like the way you went back to the beginning of the sentence and tried that again. That's what good readers do.
- You are becoming a good reader. "I'm proud of you!"