

PAUSE PROMPT PRAISE



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*Supporting your child to develop confidence when reading*



Education & Training



# Pause, Prompt... Praise 😊

## At a glance

You may have already heard of *Pause, Prompt Praise* or the 3Ps as it is sometimes called.

These three catchy words, *Pause, Prompt Praise* describe a simple technique that, used well, will support your child to practise his/her reading and to develop more reading confidence.

The principle of *Pausing* – then *Prompting* – and then *Praising* is very useful to remember and apply anytime your child is reading aloud to you.

Teachers and trained tutors often use a more structured version of this principle but the following tips can help you to try out it when reading with your child at home.

The 3Ps technique is best used when your child is reading and 'gets stuck' on words that they can't read or are new to them.

When your child encounters words that are difficult for them to read, the 3Ps technique will allow him/her the opportunity to have another go, self-correct, or if needed, find out (be told) what the problem word is.

## Introduction

Two important things to remember from the outset when using the 3Ps:

- The goal of reading is to understand (make sense) of what is read, so always keep this in mind when you are *prompting* and *praising* your child.
- Try to ensure that you are relaxed, interested and supportive, which in turn, will help your child feel OK when they make mistakes or just can't work out a word and need to be told what it is.

At home this technique will work best when your child is reading a text that is well-matched to their reading level, that is, where your child can easily read most of the words in the text and only falters on occasional words.

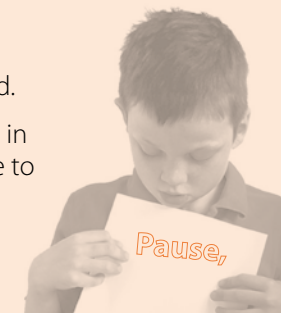
Before reading, make sure that you are both comfortable and can clearly see the text your child is reading.

## Pause,

Once your child starts reading aloud carefully follow the text as they read.

If (or when) your child comes to a word they don't know try not to jump in straight away and supply the correct word. Wait and give your child time to work out the word.

In the first instance 'pausing' creates an opportunity for your child to try and self-correct or work out the word for him/herself.



## Prompt...

If your child successfully supplies the word they have stumbled over it's a good idea to suggest that he/she goes back to the beginning of the sentence and re-reads the whole sentence again (to recap meaning) before reading on.

If your child has not independently worked out the problem word, at this point you may intervene and prompt them with some quick, low-key suggestions about what they could do. Say things like:

- *Try reading on for a sentence or two, miss out the difficult word and see if that helps you to work it out what it is.*
- *Look at the sound the word begins with, use that clue and think about what might make sense here. Look at the pictures and see if they give you a clue to what the word might be.*
- *Go back to the beginning of the sentence, re-read it and have another go at working it out.*

If prompts like these are not working, this is the point at which you simply tell your child the correct word. After a short time 'prompting' say:

- *Would you like me to help you? or How about I tell you the word?*

You may even briefly explain the meaning of the word but then quickly prompt your child to continue reading.

Try not to spend too much time prompting as your child will find it difficult to maintain the overall meaning of what they are reading.



## Praise 😊

This is the easiest part of the process for any parent because it's something that comes naturally. Praise your child's reading efforts and successes whenever you think it is appropriate during the reading process.

As well as praising their effort it is often good to tell them why. For example you might say:

- *Well done, I thought it was brilliant the way that you went back, re-read the sentence from the beginning and worked out that word you were having trouble with.*
- *That was great reading tonight, I know I had to tell you a few words but you also worked out some pretty tricky ones for yourself. Well done.*

