



Reading Recovery  
Resources for Parents

# What can you say besides 'Sound it out?'

There are many things you can say to help your child figure out a word. Being flexible in problem solving provides more information to allow the child to be successful.

To help a child use meaning (of the story or illustrations):

- Look at the picture to help yourself.
- Think about what would make sense.

To help a child use language structure (the way we talk):

- Does that sound right?
- Can we say it that way?

To help a child use information in print (the way the word looks):

- Look at how the word begins.
- Read the words up to the tricky word and start it.
- Say more of the word.
- Does that look right to you?

To help a child use two sources of information:

- Think about what would look right and make sense.
- Think about what would make sense and start like that.

A frustrated reader is a reader who is not going to take necessary risks to improve his skills. If your child is still struggling after 5-6 seconds, say the word. Praise the child's attempt by saying:

- I like the way you tried to help yourself.
- You were nearly right.
- You noticed it wasn't right. What did you notice?

A reader is like an athlete. The more a child reads, the better his or her reading becomes.



Reading Recovery® Council  
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