

What should I do when my child makes a mistake while reading?



When a child makes a mistake while reading, it is a good idea to let him continue reading to the end of the sentence. Often, by then, he will notice the mistake because he will realize that the sentence doesn't sound right or make sense. When a child realizes this, he will often try to go back and fix the mistake. This is exactly what we want children to do.

When your child begins to make these corrections you should recognize his problem solving success. For example, you might say: "I like the way you figured out that word!" or "You noticed that it didn't make sense and you went back and fixed it. You're really thinking like a reader!"

If your child reaches the end of the sentence and doesn't realize a mistake has been made, it is fine to point it out, especially when the mistake has changed the meaning of the sentence or story. These mistakes should be pointed out in an encouraging way. For example: "I like the way you read, 'She went up the...'). The next word gave you a little trouble. Let's think about that word again."