

PROGRESS IN READING



Even very young children like to look at picture books. They can see that the direction of pictures on a page can tell a story. When children listen to stories, they learn that the marks on the page from left to right can stand for spoken words.



Young children begin to recognise and read some familiar words they see every day, often starting with their own names.



Words are all around us, not just in books. Children can be helped to understand that the marks are letters, that letters go together to make words and that written words can be spoken.



Children learn the sounds letters stand for, and how different groups of letters put together can sound out different words.



The **bold** letters in these words show ALL the sounds that letters can make in English. The same letter can make different sounds in different words. Two letters put together can make a different sound from each of those letters by themselves.



Children learn to read out loud. The others can follow what is being read by pointing with their fingers.



At first, children point to each word with a finger and speak it out loud. As they become expert readers, children follow the lines of words with their eyes and read silently in their heads.



Older children can listen to younger children reading and help them with the words they do not know.



When children can read, it gives them pleasure to learn about other people, places and things. They can also write their ideas and send them to one another.



The ability to read helps people to keep in touch. It is also a step to further education and employment. Children may be able to help family adults to learn to read.