

What Can You Say Besides “Sound it out?”

Prompts to say to children to help them be a better reader.

To help children MONITOR their reading:

Are you right?

Did you listen to the words you were saying? Did it match?

(After reading) say Show me a place where you went back and corrected yourself.

To help children use MEANING (context or prior knowledge):

Look at the picture for a clue.

Does that make sense in the story?

Reread that sentence and think about what would make sense.

Make a good guess and then read on.



To help children use LANGUAGE STRUCTURE (syntax):

Does that sound right? Does it fit?

Can we say it that way?



To help children use VISUAL INFORMATION (the print/letters):

Read all the words up to the tricky word and start to say it.

Does that look right to you?

Get your mouth ready to say the first sound.

Look at how the word begins.

Do you know another word that starts that way? or looks that way?

Can you see any parts or chunks of the word you know?

To help children CROSS CHECK (use 2 or 3 sources of information):

It could be _____ (use the word they attempted to say), but look at

_____ (the first letter, or the first 2 letters, or the ending, etc.)

Check to see if what you said makes sense and looks right.