

Here are a few strategies we use in school when a child come to a word that he or she doesn't know. These are recommended to say before, "sound it out." Give your child about 5-7 seconds before you try and help.

Things to say:

- ❖ Does that sounds right when you say it?
- ❖ Does it look right in the sentence?
- ❖ Does it make sense in the story?
- ❖ What word would make sense in this sentence?
- ❖ Go back and use your picture clues to help you figure out the word.
- ❖ Skip the word and read to the end of the sentence then go back to where you were stuck, what could the word be?
- ❖ Look how the word begins. Get your mouth ready for the word. Try to find sounds you know.
- ❖ Can you find a chunk that you know in the word?

Here are a few ways to practice word work at home to help your child recognize sounds in words.

- ❖ Playing oral rhyming games with your child.
- ❖ Read nursery rhymes and have your child repeat them to practice rhyming
- ❖ Use magnetic letters on the refrigerator to practice spelling their names and other words they know.
- ❖ Practice his or her sight words daily.
- ❖ Practice what each letter of the alphabet makes and remind your child vowels can make two different sounds.

Here are some books by the same author that you can read aloud to your child and practice the strategy of "asking questions" as you both read.

- ❖ Gorky Rises
- ❖ Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
- ❖ The Amazing Bone

By William Steig