How to do Interactive Reading

Story time is a great way to connect with your child and enjoy some quality time together and it can also help your child's language develop. As teachers, parents and caregivers we know how important it is to read with young children to help them prepare for school. Interactive Reading has four steps and the best way to remember how to do Interactive Reading is to think of the word PEER. The letters in the word PEER stand for the way you ask questions and reply to your child when doing Interactive Reading.

1. The first step is to **PROMPT** your child to say something about the book or page.

HOW? Ask your child a question or invite your child to talk about something on the page or something in the story.

WHY? Prompting your child will focus their attention on the book, help them to understand the story and help them to learn new words.

EXAMPLE: Point to something in the picture, like the witch in this picture, and ask, **What is that?**

2. The second step is to **E**valuate your child's response

HOW? Think about what your child just said. Was the answer correct?   If it was correct let your child know. If your child gave the wrong answer, gently provide the correct answer.

WHY? Praising your child will encourage them to talk and by gently correcting your child if they are wrong you will be helping them to learn new language.

EXAMPLE: That's right or **it looks like a wizard but we call it a witch**

3. The third step is to **EXPAND** what your child said

HOW? Add a few words to your child's answer by rephrasing or adding a little more detail to it.

WHY? Expanding will help to your child learn new words and will encourage your child to say a little more than he or she would normally.

EXAMPLE: **It's a witch flying on a broomstick.**

4. The last step is to ask your child to **REPEAT** the new information and language.

HOW? Ask your child to repeat your expanded or corrected answer

WHY? This will encourage your child to use the new language you added and will help them learn new words

EXAMPLE: Can you say that? OR **what is it again?** OR **can you say it's a witch flying on a broomstick?**