Is it okay that my child uses pictures instead of reading the words?
- Using pictures to read the story is a good reading strategy. Readers discover that pictures convey what the words are saying.
- Sometimes parents will say they cover the pictures to “make” their child read the words. Please do not do this. Using pictures to help them with words is a great strategy when students are beginning to read.

Why does my child need to point to every word when they are reading?
- Pointing to words helps your child focus on the text. When your child points to the text as they read, they begin to see the connection between language and print.

Is it okay that my child seems to be memorizing the book?
- Memorizing is normal. Not only does your child become more confident in their reading, but it allows readers to focus on parts of the text that change. This is when pointing to text can be a teachable moment.

Why shouldn’t my child sound out every word?
- Readers are taught multiple strategies for reading unknown words. Some of these strategies can help in situations when sounding out a word does not work, such as in the words “sure” or “patience”. Look at the reading strategies below to know how to help your child.

Reading strategies that will help your child with challenging words

* Look at the picture.
* Get your mouth ready to say the first sound.
* Look for chunks you know, such as at in the word cat.
* Does it look like another word you know? (bat looks like rat)
* Skip the word, go on, and then come back. (Reading other words in context can help a child figure out the word).
* Ask yourself:
  - Does it make sense?
  - Does it sound right?
  - Does it look right?