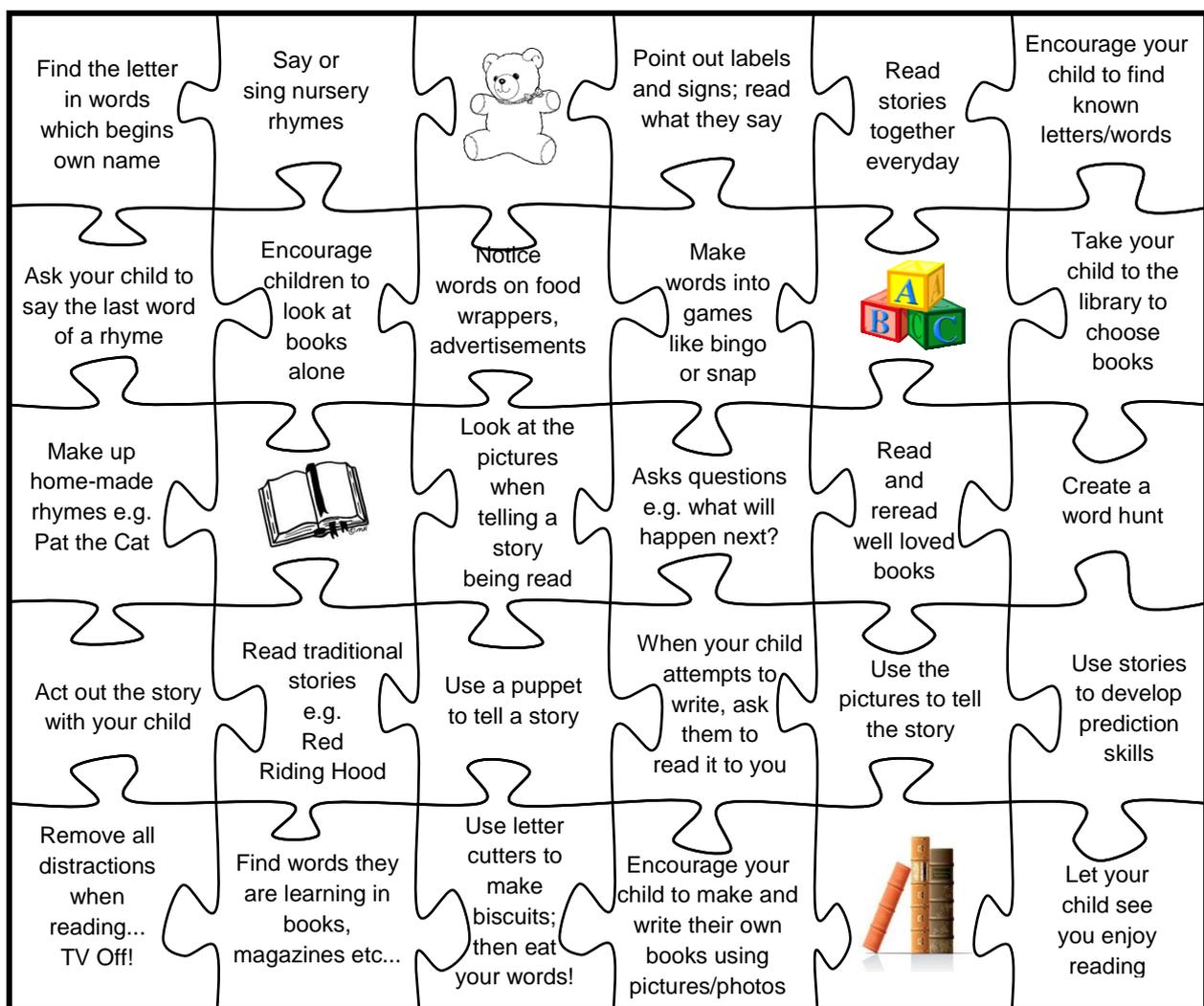


## THE READING PUZZLE

As long as children have plenty of experience of language, learning to talk for the vast majority of children is an entirely natural process. Learning to read however is not natural and although a few very lucky children learn to read apparently effortlessly, for the majority it involves a lot of hard work.

The aim of this guide is to stress that the school reading book, in your child's book bag, is only one small part of a wide range of regular reading experiences that your child needs in order to gain confidence and progress as a reader.

The Reading Puzzle below gives you a sample of ideas that you can try, and keep trying over time, with your child at home. Some of the ideas mirror activities that they will also be doing in school, whilst other offer something 'different' to keep learning at home active and engaging.

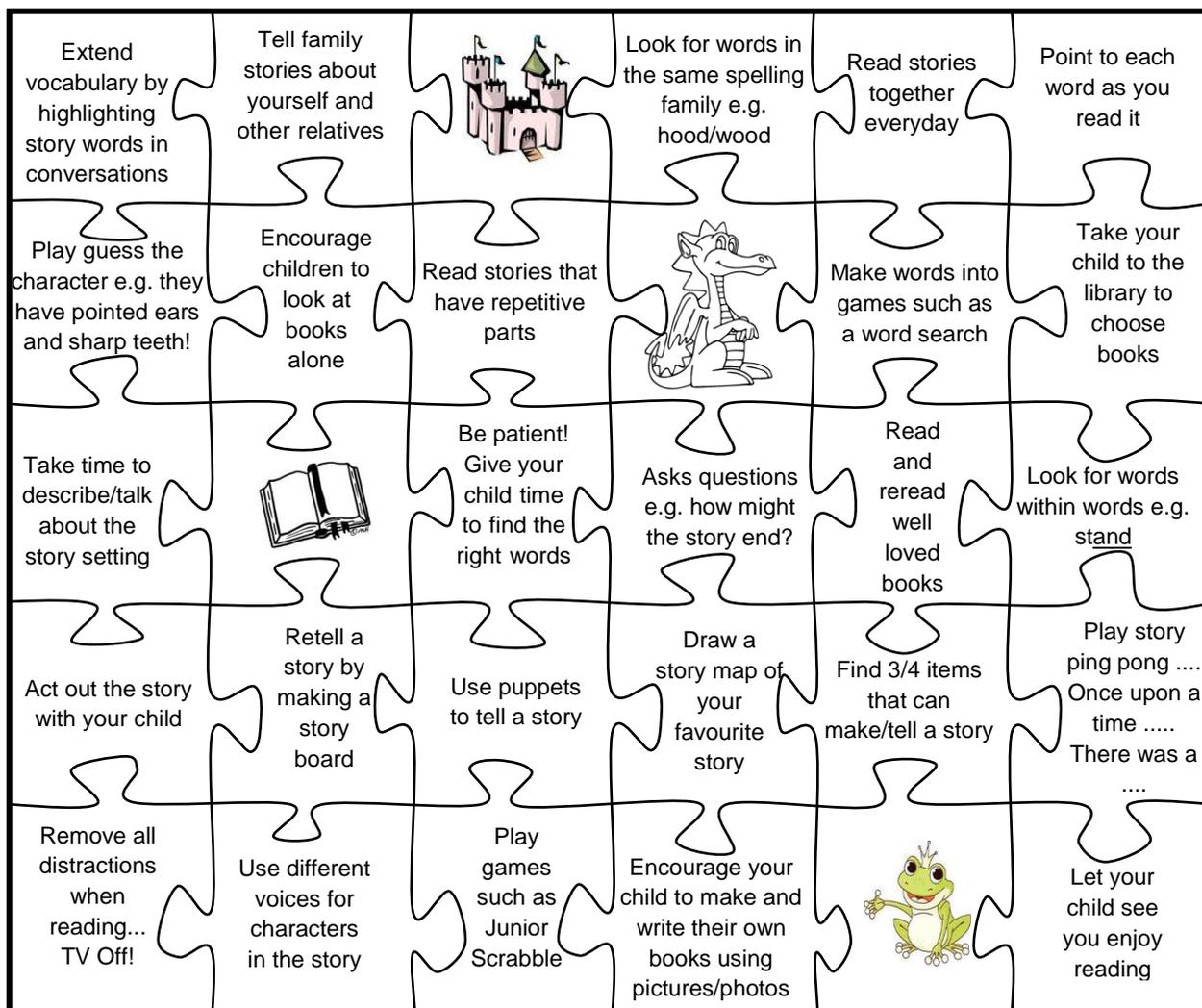


The Reading Jigsaw is just a collection of our ideas; however we are confident that you will have even more. So share your ideas with each other, and us, so that together we can work in partnership to make learning to read both fun and enjoyable... for everyone!

## THE READING PUZZLE... CONTINUED

Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Before long they will grow to love stories/books and eventually they will want to read on their own. With frequent exposure to books most children will learn all they need to know about 'how books work', however, it helps if sometimes adults demonstrate e.g. by pointing to the words as we say them children will learn that in English text is read from left to right and that clusters of letters make words (the space in between them indicating when one stops and another starts). Adults sharing books with their children, even once they can read for themselves, are vital in the development of reading.

Children generally love stories, however, they also need to have a range of other texts shared with them, preferably in a meaningful context – recipes, lists, posters, letters, information books etc. Demonstrate what they are all for and how they organised. Take every opportunity to model how and why adults read. Encourage your child to incorporate their reading and writing in their play, as this helps them to develop 'real' literacy skills.



The ability to read is vital. It paves the way to success in school, which can build self-confidence and motivate your child to set high expectations for their future. Learning to read does not happen all at once. It involves a series of stages that lead, over time, to independent reading and to fluency. As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning for life.