



Professor Toshio Okazaki- Tsukuba University

"Children quickly become involved with the Reading Tree characters. Even if they can't read the text in the books at first, the children can follow the humorous and carefully considered pictures, and they are encouraged to talk. As they become more and more interested in the adventures of Kipper and his friends, they want to read more and more of the books and without consciously trying, they begin to acquire English reading ability. If you would like to give your children a taste of the ways that native English speakers learn to read English, I recommend that you try the Oxford Reading Tree."



Kevin Sensei's Reading Time - Using Big Books

"I usually hold the books in one hand and use a finger pointer to point at useful nouns or direct the students attention. I use a lot of questions, sometimes in Japanese, sometimes in English, depending on the students' level. I try to build context and ask them "What will they do next?" or "What do you think will happen next."

Before we begin a book, we look at the cover and imagine what the story will be about. The Stage 1 (Kipper Storybooks) were really popular at the kindergartens with four and five year old's. I think they relate to Kipper. I never "read" the books. I tell the story in my own words with as much English as they can understand."



"C"-chan loves the Reading Tree!

"The stories are so interesting! As soon as they arrive, my daughter ('C'-chan, age 6) is begging me to read them to her. We went through 30 books (Stages 4 - 7) one after the other. I was reading for over 2 hours.

A few days later, 'C'-chan wrote her first 'Kipper' story - the first time she had ever written anything. The Reading Tree is both entertaining and educational, if you look closely at each page you can see the skill of the writers and illustrators in developing children's reading abilities while they have fun."



"Oh no! Bubbles!"

"Not having read much English before, I was slightly nervous when I started to read the Reading Tree to my 2-year old son, 'Y'-kun. But 'Y'-kun loves the stories - shouting out 'Wa-oh', 'Oh no! and so on as we read.

The most interesting time was when we read the story 'Kipper's Birthday'. In the story, Kipper's Dad puts too much washing powder in the dishwasher and bubbles fill the whole house. 'Y'-kun suddenly shouted out the sentence 'Oh no! Bubbles!' We are having great success with the Oxford Reading Tree."



A letter to Floppy

"Today, my 4 year old son, 'R'-kun, wrote a letter to Kipper - I was really surprised. It said:

'Hello Floppy
I like your BOOK.
The story was about a fire.'

These phrases appear a lot in the stories, but I was surprised to see 'R'-kun writing them himself. Everyday, he plays the Reading Tree CD for himself and listens to the stories. He has started reading stories to me that I haven't read to him!"