



KS1 | Ages 5-7

10 Simple Ways to Improve Your Child's English Confidence

Small, joyful steps that help early readers, writers and speakers feel safe, capable and curious.



10

At this age, English confidence grows through shared stories, playful talk and writing that feels meaningful.



Choose the ideas that fit your child. Consistency and calm matter more than trying everything at once.

1

Share a story every day

Read together in a relaxed way, even for just ten minutes. Hearing fluent, expressive reading helps words and story patterns feel familiar.

TRY IT: Let your child choose the book and take turns with a page, sentence or repeated phrase.

SAY: "Let's enjoy this story together."

2

Let your child choose

Choice builds motivation. Picture books, comics, information books, poems and familiar favourites all count as valuable reading.

TRY IT: Offer two or three suitable options and let your child decide what to explore.

SAY: "Which one would you like us to read today?"

3

Praise ideas before corrections

When your child speaks or writes, respond to the message first. Too many immediate corrections can make them afraid to contribute.

TRY IT: Name one interesting idea before helping with one spelling, sound or sentence.

SAY: "I really like that idea. Shall we improve one word together?"

4

Talk about pictures and predictions

Pictures help children build meaning before every word can be read independently. Prediction also makes reading feel active.

TRY IT: Pause before turning the page and ask what might happen next and why.

SAY: "What can you see that gives you a clue?"

5

Play with sounds and rhymes

Rhymes, songs and sound games strengthen phonological awareness without making home feel like another lesson.

TRY IT: Find words that rhyme, clap syllables or play 'I spy' using the first sound.

SAY: "What other word has the same beginning sound?"



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6

Give writing a real purpose

Lists, cards, labels, captions and simple messages show that writing communicates something important.

TRY IT: Invite your child to write part of the shopping list or a message for someone they know.

SAY: "Your writing will help us remember and share this."

7

Grow vocabulary through talk

Use interesting words naturally and explain them simply. Children gain confidence when they hear new words before using them alone.

TRY IT: Choose one useful new word from a story and use it again later that day.

SAY: "That word means... Can we think of another example?"

8

Support tricky words calmly

Give time before stepping in. A first sound, picture clue or rereading of the sentence may be enough to unlock the word.

TRY IT: Ask which part they recognise, then offer the smallest helpful clue.

SAY: "Take your time. What do you already notice?"

9

Remove the rush

Reading aloud can feel vulnerable. Avoid comparisons and allow your child to pause, correct themselves and try again.

TRY IT: Keep your expression relaxed and wait quietly for a few seconds before prompting.

SAY: "There is no race. Careful reading matters."

10

Finish with a success

End with a favourite page, a word they can read or a sentence they are proud of. A positive final feeling makes returning easier.

TRY IT: Ask your child to choose the part they would like to read or show again.

SAY: "Look what you can do now."