

Supporting Reading at Home

Reading with your child:

Try to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes a day and once over the weekend. Encourage it as a pleasurable experience.

Find some time to talk about the book as well as reading it. Start with the title, look at the cover and briefly chat about what you might find inside.

At the bottom of each page, encourage your child to predict what might happen next.

If your child gets stuck: Pause, Prompt and Praise

PAUSE to help them work out the new words

PROMPT by using some of the techniques mentioned below

PRAISE them for trying whether they are right or wrong

Prompts for tricky words

If your child misreads a word without changing the meaning, e.g. 'Dad' for 'Father', accept it. If they hesitate, repeat a word or leave one out, say nothing provided the meaning is not lost.

If they say a word which does change the meaning, or they are simply stuck, you can help them by;

- Pointing to the picture if it is relevant
- Asking a question to remind them of the context, e.g. 'Where did they say they were going?'
- Re-reading the sentence up to the unknown word to remind them of the context
- Saying or pointing to the first letter of the word
- Telling your child the word to avoid losing momentum
- If the word can be read easily by sounding out the letters, encourage them or help them to do this

Do not condemn the book as 'too easy' or 'too hard'. Children need a range of reading materials. Any 'easy' book helps them to relax with reading. A difficult book can be read to your child. Both are important.

After Reading

Encourage your child to retell the story you have just shared. This will give you an idea of how much they have understood.

Talking about the book with your child at the end will help your child in their enjoyment and understanding of the book.

- Did you enjoy that book? Why? Why not?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?

- Which part did you like the best? Why?
- Was there any part you didn't like? Why?
- Would you choose this book/story again?

Which books are best?

1. Books your child likes.
2. Books suggested by your child's teacher
3. Books your child chooses from a library or bookshop that they want to read
4. Never be afraid of re-reading books

What else can your child read?

- Comics
- Magazines
- Travel brochures
- Instructions or recipes
- What's on television tonight
- Information books
- Manuals
- Newspapers
- Poems
- Taped/CD/Recorded stories
- Sports Reports
- Shopping lists.....

My child is a good reader. Can I still help?

YES! Although children will often want to read in their heads when they become fluent readers it is still important to hear them read aloud so they

can practice using appropriate emphasis and expression

.

My child won't read, no matter what I do. How can I help?

- Read to your child as much as possible
- Don't make an issue out of it
- Talk to your child's class teacher
- Working together will help

How to encourage your child to read

Read yourself! Show a good example by talking about the reading you do at work and at home. Let your child know that reading is an important part of your life.

Keep books safe. Make your child their own special place to keep their books in their bedroom.

Visit your library – it's free to join! As well as taking out story books, use visits to the library as a time to find books and CD ROMs about your child's hobbies and interests.

Make time to read. Set aside a time for reading for the family – after school or before bedtime. Encourage independent reading but don't be afraid to still tell a bedtime story.

Don't just read books. Encourage your child to read newspapers, TV guides, comics and magazines. Ask your child to find out information from flyers and leaflets, the Internet, cookery books, etc.

Let your child read with younger children.

Encourage them to read to other members of the family.

Keep in touch with school. Make sure your child does their weekly home reading, making comments about what they have read. Try to make a regular time slot of about 10 minutes to hear them read.

If English is not your family's first language: You can buy dual language books. You can talk about books and stories in any language.

Be positive! Praise your child for trying hard at their reading. Let them know it's all right to make mistakes.

Give them time. Let them make a guess before you tell them the word. Let them read to the end of the line before correcting their mistakes. It doesn't matter if you have to tell them the word sometimes.

Spot words inside words. Help them to spot words they know within larger more complicated words.

Let them read their favourites. Don't worry if they only read one kind of book. If they are really stuck, ask the librarian or teacher to suggest something else they might like.

Make the story come to life. Encourage your child to read with expression. This will help them read more fluently.

Ask lots of questions about the story. What would you have done if you were.....? Does this

book remind you of any thing that has happened to you?

Can you guess what is going to happen next?

Use a dictionary. Buy a simple dictionary and use it to check the meanings of new words.

Activities to try at home

Make a scrap book with your child about their favourite star, group or team. Let them cut pictures out of magazines and papers and write their own captions.

Buy a book of crosswords and wordsearches and try to solve them together. Make up your own puzzles to try out on family and friends.