

Reading – The Master Skill

Supporting your child with their reading at home for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.



“Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible.”

BARACK OBAMA

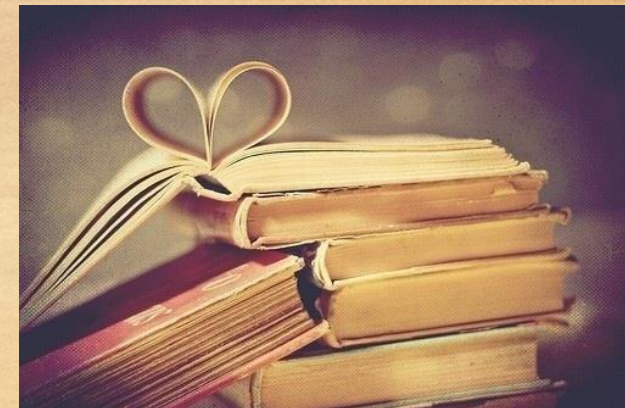
Children are still at the beginning of their reading journey – this journey should never end!

“THERE’S NO SUCH THING AS A KID WHO HATES READING. THERE ARE KIDS WHO LOVE READING, AND KIDS WHO ARE READING THE WRONG BOOKS.”
JAMES PATTERSON

Tip 1

Read regularly

- Model enthusiasm towards reading.
- Remember children may be tackling longer/more challenging texts at this age.
- Little and often is still key – it is not a race!
- Remember to discuss the text- this is as important as the actual reading.
- Record this in the home reading record/planner so your child can be rewarded at school.



Tip 2

Reading Routine

- Get into a regular routine for their reading.
- Create a calm, quiet environment for your reading routine – no TV in the background!
- Down devices before bed – make sure you plan have enough quality time to use the time before bed as a reading.
- Make it a special time for you and your child(ren), make hot chocolates, snuggle up and enjoy!



Tip 3

Still take an active role!

- Even though they are older they still need you!
- They need you to help model reading skills and being an 'active' reader- discuss what you think when reading- what questions pop into your head.
- Try: I read a page then you read a page, be reading the same book as each other, listen to audiobooks of novels or simply read to them still!



Tip 4

It's OK to misread a word!

- Most children will be past decoding words at this age in their schooling.
- However there will still be words children struggle with.
- Build their confidence- let them know this is OK, as adults we still do this!
- Remind them not to rush their reading and think about words they are reading to help their understanding.



Tip 5

Develop a love of reading

- For all the academic benefits – books are designed to be enjoyed!
- Pick books you child is interested in!
Visit the library- it's free!
- Reading for pleasure will increase stamina – they will go hand in hand.
- Make it a special time for you all to enjoy.



“Wherever I am, if I’ve got that book with me, I’ve got a place I can go and be happy.”

J.K. ROWLING

Tip 6

Provide a range of texts

- Children can often develop a preference for a certain genre or author as they get older.
- However, they ideally need a mixture of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.
- Find texts once an interest has been sparked – such as a topic in school or even an interest in current affairs.
- Remember they can read magazines, newspapers and blogs too.



Tip 7

Talk about books

- Use the bookmark your child brings home to help you talk about books.
- Ask the questions before, during and after reading – this will help the children make connections and aid with their understanding.
- Make links to the setting, characters, plot etc through their own experiences, things they have learnt in school, seen on TV or other books they have read.



Questions to ask your child when reading - 2

Before reading the book:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What might happen in the story?
- What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, horror.
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Who is the character you like least? Why?
- Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting.
- Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.

Questions to ask your child when reading - 2

At the end of the book:

- Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?
- Would you change any part of the story? How?
- Would you change any of the characters? How?
- Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion.
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
- Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her?
- Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?




Tip 8

Reading Skills




- As they get older children need to read for understanding.
- The question types they need to be answer are...

Vocabulary Questions




Vocabulary Venom is there to help you work out the meaning of unknown words and phrases using context clues.

Summary Questions




Summarising Super Girl is there to remind you to Summarise the main point(s) or main event(s) of a paragraph or text.

Prediction Questions




Predicting Penguin tries to see the future and he will help you to work out what might happen next from the clues in the text.

Compare, Contrast & Comment Questions



Catwoman the Commentator discusses the content of a paragraph/text and compares events and characters. Can you do the same?

Author Choice Questions



Aquaman the author likes to help you spot examples of ambitious vocabulary and figurative language, and to explain how the words/phrases that have been used add to the meaning of the text.

Retrieval Questions



Riddler Retriever is there to help you to go into a text and just simply retrieve the facts and key details.

Inference Questions



Inference Ivy will help you hunt for clues in a text about how someone might be feeling or why something is happening.

Tip 9

Decode vocabulary



- Even if they can read it they may not understand what it means!
- Look at the surrounding words, what could the word be replaced with?
- Is there a familiar root word? e.g. Faithfulness- Faith
- Is there a known prefix or suffix? E.g. Pre (before)- Predetermine.
- Have a thesaurus/dictionary at hand (can use phone) to explore the vocabulary and then use the word orally again and again!

Tip 10

Focus on inference

- This is often the most difficult skill to master and hardest question type to answer for children.
- Model this at every opportunity!
- Show it is fine to have different inferences or more than one answer – this is what children often struggle with! Start a debate about it!
- Use these question prompts...



- Why do you think?
- Why did?
- How do you know that?
- What might happen if?
- What can you infer from the picture on the page?
- Why do they? How do you know?
- Do you think? Why do you think that?
- Why does the author use the word?



Thank you for reading!

**Please direct any questions to your child's class teacher
and they will be happy to help.**

Keep going, you are doing an amazing job!