



Reading at Home

How to support your child's reading at home:

Reading aloud to your child daily. As often as possible. This is still the number one way to support early readers and ensure that your child has the best possible start at reading. And it's fun!

Which books? Any books are fine for reading aloud. You are doing the reading and modelling and your child is benefiting in a lot of ways!

Got a library card? Perfect! Head over to the children's section and allow your child to choose some books. Choice is a powerful motivator so the more you can include your child in the books you read together, the better!

How about making their own books? Have your child tell you a story and you write the words. You can go back and add pictures. Then read the story together. You will be surprised how well children can read books they create themselves!

Read, read, read it again

We call this **repeated reading**. When your child is able to read a book, have them read it over and over again until they read it fluently and flawlessly — with expression too! They can read it to all the members of the family, the childminder, siblings, the dogs, and cats, or even their toys. **The key is repetition.**

Talk about what you read with your child

Pause during the story and ask questions about the characters.

*It's always best to phrase your question as if you were asking yourself — or thinking out loud. Don't make this a quiz! Just have fun.

"I wonder why Harry was afraid. What do you think?"

Help your child identify with the characters or the problem/conflict in the story.

"I remember a time that I was afraid during a storm. Have you ever been afraid during a storm?"

Process the events in the story by reviewing what's happened so far.

"So far Harry has visited his best friend, made some potions, and what else has happened?"

Take time to look at the pictures — they are there for an important reason: to help your child comprehend the story better

"Look at Susanna as she lays in bed. What do you think she is thinking or feeling?" "How can you tell?"

Make predictions about what will happen next.

"I wonder if Susanna will run to her grandma's room? What do you think she'll do next?"

Top Tips

- Always read the title and talk about what the book might be about
- Always check that what they read makes sense
- If a child makes a mistake, give them time to notice. It doesn't matter if they can't fix it – noticing the error is an important step
- There is no need to correct a child every time they make a mistake. If the reading makes sense and the child is reading fluently, you can address any errors at the end of the reading

Use phrases like this to praise your child's reading:

- 'I like the way you stopped to re-read to check that made sense'
- 'Well done! You weren't sure so you checked your picture and sounded out the word to check'
- When a child is learning to read and they are pointing – please encourage them to point to the first letter in each word and blend the sounds in the word to read it
- Please don't point to the words as your child is reading. They must be in control of the reading. If adults are pointing and a child makes an error the adult will automatically stop pointing
- Try to encourage your child from not using a 'robot voice' where you stop between each word, but to join the words together. They need to join the words together which will help them to read with greater fluency.

Suggestions for comments for your child's Home Reading Diary

- Understood the story well
- Good discussion about the events in the story
- Retold the story in detail
- Could talk about the story confidently
- Answered questions about the content
- Needs to read again to improve understanding
- Used the pictures to help understanding
- Needed lots of help to understand the main events
- Read all the words correctly
- Found these words difficult
- Tried hard to work out the new words
- Good word building
- Needs to practice again to reinforce the words
- Read accurately and confidently
- Was able to work out the new words using picture clues
- Has learnt all about.....and could explain in own words
- Following with finger
- Starting to follow with eyes not finger
- Still sounding out High Frequency word
- Covered up part of the word to break it down
- Read eagerly
- Enjoyed the story because.....
- Fantastic expression
- Would benefit from reading again to improve fluency

