



How Can You Support Reading at Home?

'If children are confident readers, they will not only do well in reading and writing tasks, they will be able to understand what is being taught in every other subject: science, history, geography and even maths' (The Book Trust)

'If we want our children to thrive, teaching them to read is not enough - they must learn to enjoy it.' (Author, Cressida Cowell)

Before You Begin...

- Reading in a quiet place - turn off the TV, sit together and encourage your child to hold correctly the book and turn the pages independently.
- Find a comfy spot - very important!
- If you're child likes to 'whizz' through when reading to look at all the pictures, look at the title first, the front cover and the blurb - talk about what they book might be about - then allow them to look through the book and discuss the pictures with you.
- NOW start reading the book.



Useful video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovNfiLgmaPY>

Top Tips for Parents

- Begin by talking. Talking is crucial for encouraging engagement and interest from your child. If you can relate the book to an experience you may have had as a family, even better. Show them that the main aim of 'reading' is to enjoy the book and the time together.
- Let your child hold the book and ask questions as you go along. You may feel that question may interrupt the flow of your child's reading but if your child is asking questions related to the book, that shows they are engaged and curious.
- If they are unsure of a word, encourage them to segment themselves (unless it is a 'tricky word'. You could say: 'What would make sense? Look at the sounds in that word. Re-read the line or read on'. If they make a mistake, say 'Can you double check that word/part?'
- Talk about how to use a "story voice", what to do when they see a full stop or a question mark. You could model and practise putting the words together with fluency to model the reading we are aiming for.

- Introduce re-reading into your reading routine. If your child is segmenting each word and blending as they go from word to word, encourage them to read each sentence again once they've got to the end. The next time they read it, they will recognise the words they've just read and it will be much more fluent.
- Don't rush. You do not need to read the whole book in one reading session.
- Once your child has finished reading a sentence, ask them a question about what they've just read. Have they understood? Do they need to re-read?



Useful video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xm7eZctoGag>

Developing Fluency

- Once your child is a confident reader and is demonstrating consistent fluency when reading, encourage them to stop pointing at the words. We read more quickly with our eyes and if they need to slowly check a word, they can use their finger to segment the sounds.
- Allow your children to read books over and over again, especially their favourite ones!
- Remind your child to look out for commas, full stops, ellipsis (...) or any other form of punctuation. Remind them to pause or stop when they see a comma or a full stop, change their expression when presented with an exclamation mark or read with increased intonation when presented with a question mark.
- Read some parts of the book to them to show them how it needs to sound. You might want to say, "listen to me read this part - now you try."

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

- Read TO your child as much as possible. Allow them to choose books that you can share together. You can still have great conversations and discussions around the story even if your child is reluctant to read themselves - by doing this, you are instilling a 'love of reading' in your home.
- Don't force it or make reading into a battle.
- Please talk to your child's class teacher - working together will help and there maybe other strategies that you haven't tried yet.
- Encourage a range of reading opportunities: non-fiction, comics, magazines, joke books, top trumps cards. It can be anything that engages them.

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

- Yes. Absolutely. Although children will often want to read in their heads when they become fluent readers, there are still many things that you can do.
- Do they understand what they are reading? Is their comprehension as good as their fluency? Discuss with them what they are reading. Ask them to tell you about the characters, the plot, the important or exciting parts of the story.
- Encourage them to read 'widely'. Comics, magazines, poems, non-fiction books. The more variety, the better!
- Ask your child what they have learned from the book they are reading - you may even learn something fascinating!
- You could read the same book as your child and you can then discuss the plot together - there are some wonderful children's books and they are a great read, even for adults.
- Visit the library, let them choose their own books and allow them to immerse themselves into the wonderful world of books!

More useful videos to support reading at home...



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKFdKs_2wJY (5 years +)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNqG-RlwrlM> (7 years +)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O-N2g96yvo> (10 years +)

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