



Helping your Child to Read



Reading to your Child:

- In the early stages of reading, children learn to "behave like a reader", by copying what they see and learning how a book works. Sharing and repeating favourite stories together encourages children to join in.
- As children become increasingly independent readers, don't stop reading to them. You can model and encourage correct pronunciation, good expression and reading at the right pace.

Reading Together:

- In the early stages of reading, read the books with your child moving your finger along the line and pointing to the words so that they may follow the line of print. Discuss the pictures in the book and concentrate on the story line. Some early books have no words so you and your child can construct a story using the pictures as a guide. Draw their attention to the details in the illustrations and encourage them to predict what might happen next.
- As children become increasingly independent with their reading, this discussion and prediction should continue to ensure that children are understanding what they read.

Listening to your child read:

- Remember that little and often is best, five minutes, five times a week is a sensible basis. Reading should only continue for longer than 10 minutes if your child insists.
- Your child will have chosen the book that they have brought home. If it appears they have read it before and enjoyed it enough to read again, that is fine. If it is too difficult or too easy, have a go at reading it together, as pleasure in reading is a strong motivation. Your child will quickly become adept at choosing books at an appropriate level.
- If your child has chosen a book which they then find is not to their liking, there is no reason they should have to finish it. An alternative choice of reading material can be made.
- Never let your child stumble over a word for more than a few seconds. If they do not know a word help them to work it out using clues in the text e.g. use their phonic knowledge, look at the illustrations, read ahead to make a reasonable guess at the missing word so that the sentence makes sense in the context of the story. If your child makes a mistake, allow them to continue for a little way and correct themselves. When reading for meaning, mistakes will be obvious to them and they should go back over the text to extract the correct meaning. If they don't notice the mistake, then prompt them to check if what they have read makes sense. Don't correct small and unimportant mistakes, where the meaning of the text has not been altered e.g. substituting "a" for "the". This will ensure the flow of the story is maintained.

Independent Reading

- Remember that the most lasting form of motivation is your child's own realisation that what they are doing is enjoyable and useful to them at this moment in time. Provide children with the opportunity to read independently for their own purposes and enjoyment right from the beginning.

Always make reading fun! Praise your child as much as possible and never allow anxiety or a feeling of failure to develop.





Developing Comprehension



Remember to discuss what your child is reading and ask them questions to ensure they understand what they are reading. This will help them to develop the skills they will need in future life in order to be able to read for a purpose, and of course for pleasure! Encourage them to find examples directly from the text they are reading when discussing and answering questions about it.

Here are a few useful questions for fiction/non-fiction texts:

Before Reading:

What is the title of the book?

Who is the author?

What do you think the book will be about?

What do the pictures on the cover tell you about the story?

What type of book is it? (fiction, non-fiction, poetry) How do you know?

What would you like to find out by reading the book?

What questions do you have about the book?

During Reading:

Find a word that you don't know. What does it mean?

How should you read the word if it is written in capital letters?

What do you do when you see a full stop / exclamation mark / speech marks?

Who are the main characters?

How does the character behave? (find examples in the text)

How does the character feel when ... ?

Where does the story take place?

What pictures and images can you see in your mind as you read?

What do you think will happen next? What do you think will happen in the end?

What information have you found out?

Which is the most important piece of information?

Why has the author used this word?

After Reading:

Can you summarise the story or information?

What did you like/dislike about the whole text? Why?

Would you recommend this book for someone else to read? Why? Why not?

Is the book similar to any other books you have read? How?

What did you learn from reading the book?

What did you find interesting?