

## Reading at home...

We want our children to love books and become confident and enthusiastic readers. For us to achieve this we need to take reading beyond the classroom. We want to create a rich reading environment where reading is encouraged by everyone and everywhere.

Above all, reading should be an enjoyable experience. Adults can become a lot more involved with their child's reading by being interested in not only the child's performance, but also in the material that they are reading. Adults who laugh at humorous stories, or make guesses about what will happen next, are modelling behaviour that carries important messages about reading to children. As well as helping to develop an interest and enjoyment of reading, discussing a book with your child will also help comprehension. For example, examine characters in a story, discuss how illustrations enhance the text, predict endings and discuss any other similar stories or work by the same author. This interaction will also increase your child's involvement with the text.

As children become older reading habits tend to change and the emphasis may move away from 'reading aloud' to parents. It is still important, however, that children are encouraged to regularly read at home and that this parent-child interaction continues throughout their primary years and beyond.

Everywhere we go there are things to look at and read. This can be done at any time; while you are shopping, visiting the dentist, travelling in the car or bus, visiting places. The list is endless. There are lots of fun and interesting ways we can help children to read without them even realising they are learning. Remember it is also important for children to be read to. We have put together just a few ideas that you could use with your child at home.

Children will often want to read the same book over and over again. This shows they are enjoying the story and getting pleasure from reading and should be encouraged.

## Improving reading

Spend 10 minutes a day reading together. **PLEASE** make it fun.

- Sing nursery rhymes and songs
- Listen to story cd's stories and rhymes
- Encourage children to make up their own stories
- Spend time reading together talking about the pictures or story
- Make a special place to keep reading books
- Join the library
- When reading point out unusual words and talk about what they mean
- Let your child see you reading, talk about what you like or don't like to read
- Cook - read the recipe
- Encourage your children to spot letters that they recognise on posters, signs etc
- Point out various signs that are all around us. Children from a very early age recognise (and read) McDonalds, Tesco, Asda etc.
- Read words together on food packets and tins when shopping, can they find the baked beans? tomato sauce? etc.
- Read a book to the children that they know well, miss out words and encourage the children to fill in the blanks.
- Create your own book, include photographs of the family, trips out, children taking part in clubs out of school lessons, favourite pages from magazines, children's drawings etc.
- Let the children choose their own books or magazines, these can be about hobbies, sports or tv programmes
- Cook - read the recipe



Questioning children about the book they are reading provides us with the opportunity to discover what they have understood about it. Here are some examples. Use your judgement about which questions to ask and keep it enjoyable, not asking too many questions at one time.

### Fiction books

- Where does the story take place?
- When did the story take place?
- What did he / she / it look like?
- Who was he / she / it?
- Where did he / she / it live?
- Would you like to have a friend like this, Why / Why not?
- How did you feel during different parts of the story, what made you feel like this?
- Through whose eyes was the story told?
- What part of the story did you like / dislike the most, why?
- Have you read any other stories which were similar?
- Do you know any other authors who deal with the same issues as this?
- What do you think these words mean?
- Do you think this book was as good as...?
- What part of the book was the saddest, funniest, most interesting?
- Did the pictures help you to understand more about the story?
- What questions would you like to ask the author?
- Do you think all children would like this book?



### Poetry

- Who wrote this poem?
- What is the poem about?
- What do you think the poet is trying to say?
- What did you like / dislike about the poem?
- What poetic features can you identify (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration)?
- Did the poem remind you of anything?
- Does the shape the poem makes or the sounds it makes when you read it add to the message?



### Non-fiction books

- What have you learnt from this book?
- Who do you think would find this book the most interesting?
- How would you use the index page to find something out?
- (Look at the contents page) What page would you find out about ...?
- Do you think this book could be better, why/how?
- Did you find the diagrams, photographs helpful?

### Helping your child read a word...

- Which letter phonemes do you recognise? Can you blend them together?
- Does the word make sense? Read the sentence again to check.
- Is there another word that would make sense?
- Is it a word you know?
- Have you read the word before? Is it on another page?
- Are there any bits you recognise?
- Miss out the word, and finish the sentence - then go back and work out what the word was
- In a rhyming book think of a word that rhymes
- Use the first 1 or 2 sounds with another strategy
- Go back and read the sentence again

“The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you’ll go.”  
-Dr. Seuss