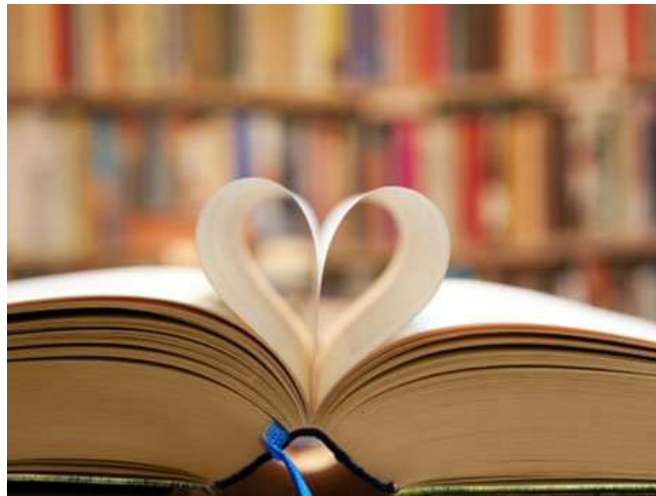




## Reading: tips for parents/carers



**SUPPORTING READING** - In terms of supporting their reading at home, the children need to be encouraged to read stories, poetry, plays and all kinds of information texts. They also need to be able to choose the kinds of books that they enjoy. They may already be hooked onto a particular writer or type of book or some may be more tuned into magazines or information texts. It is important that children spend time reading to and being read to by both parents and see reading as part of daily life. For boys it is especially important that dads spend time reading with them and that they see male role models enjoying reading.

### **READING ALOUD**

As the children progress through the school, they may begin to feel that they do not need to read aloud. All children, regardless of ability, will benefit from reading to someone. It gives them the chance to read fluently with expression in order to keep the listener's attention. Many really enjoy having an opportunity to share their book with a family member or friend. Check your child really understands the book by asking them to relate the story to you. Your child will also benefit from you reading a story to them, which is at a level above their reading, so they can hear you model good reading skills.

### **What can I do to help my child at Reception, Year 1 and 2?**

- ❖ As well as reading aloud to someone who is listening carefully and giving help where needed, children need to talk about the book and be read to themselves.
- ❖ Try to take a regular time as often as you can to read and enjoy books.
- ❖ You could read a book to your child and get him/ her to join in when he/she can. Children can

do this best with rhymes and repeating patterns of words and at the end of sentences.

- ❖ Re-read books that are familiar to your child: they enjoy and get satisfaction from re-reading good books; this helps to turn them on to reading and gives them confidence.
- ❖ When they know most of the words, they can then turn their attention to reading fluently and with expression
- ❖ Children can read on their own without having to wait for someone to help them. This means they can do more reading which helps them to become better readers.
- ❖ When children know most of the words, they can learn about common letter strings, about forming new words from the ones they already know and about similarities and differences between words.
- ❖ Recorded books are excellent, as they can let your child experience books that they couldn't manage on his/her own.
- ❖ Check your child really understands the book by asking them to relate the story to you.
- ❖ When your child reads and gets a word wrong, allow them to complete the sentence before correcting them. Children can often work out the 'difficult' word by understanding the rest of the sentence and missing the word out. You can also help your child to break down 'difficult' words into parts that they recognise.

#### **What can I do to help my child at Years 3 and 4?**

- ❖ Children need to widen their reading and to use and browse through non-fiction.
- ❖ They need to be encouraged to read stories, poetry, plays and all kinds of information texts. They also need to be able to choose the kinds of books that they enjoy. It is at around this age that children can get hooked on to a particular writer or type of book.
- ❖ There is evidence that by the time they are in Year 4, some boys may be losing interest in reading and not doing as well as girls. Some boys are more tuned into magazines, information texts of all kinds and comics. They need opportunities for this kind of reading at home.
- ❖ Libraries do an excellent job, but there is nothing like owning your own books. Having books of your own that you can go back to, talk about and swap with a friend, collect and treasure is really important. It can make a big difference to reading progress.
- ❖ Your child will be bringing books home from school regularly. They may not need to read aloud so that your job in helping them will change. Even as adults, we like being read to, so don't give up on this.
- ❖ Audio books are excellent, as they can let your child experience books that they couldn't manage on their own.
- ❖ Your child might benefit from reading to younger children. This gives him/her the chance to read fluently with expression in order to keep the listener's attention. Grandparents are good listeners and readers too.
- ❖ Check your child really understands the book by asking them to relate the story to you. Allow your child to reread favourite stories. This will encourage them to recognise patterns in the story and new words.
- ❖ When your child reads and gets a word wrong, allow them to complete the sentence before correcting them. Children can often work out the 'difficult word by understanding the rest of the sentence. You can also help your child to break down 'difficult' words into parts that they recognise.

#### **What can I do to help my child at Years 5 and 6?**

- ❖ Through Years 5 and 6, children will still benefit from your help and interest.
- ❖ Carry on helping with learning rules and patterns in spelling, making sure that your child uses the strategy of LOOK, SAY, COVER, THINK, WRITE and CHECK.
- ❖ Word games, crosswords, word searches, Scrabble and other word puzzles are good at this stage. For reading, you might think about an encyclopedia, book of records etc. Many children

of this age like collecting facts and they are improving their reading at the same time. Joke books, verses and poetry books may also be appreciated – they can be dipped into at odd moments.

- ❖ A good dictionary and thesaurus are useful to have to hand for doing homework or for browsing through.
- ❖ You might give your child a subscription to a magazine that reflects his/her interests. There are also junior supplements in many newspapers.
- ❖ The other side of reading is getting into and enjoying a good children's novel. Children's libraries, book shops and the school can help you with selection, but at this stage it is mainly your child who will choose.
- ❖ Try to guarantee a quiet time and space for regular reading and homework. Take an interest in whatever your child has been set to do and have an agreed time slot for doing it in. The best place to read at this age may be in bed!
- ❖ Keep up with buying books (and books on CD).
- ❖ This stage is important for your child as a life-long reader. If they are interested now, it is likely they will be lifelong readers.

### **Links to phonics sounds:**

[What is Blending in Phonics – YouTube](#)

[Phonics: How to pronounce pure sounds | Oxford Owl – YouTube](#)

[Phonics: How to blend sounds to read words | Oxford Owl - YouTube](#)

[Phonics terminology - YouTube](#)

### **Questions to ask your child when reading with them:**

Talking to your children about the books they read is one of the best ways to support your child's literacy development. Your child needs to engage in critical thinking to discuss a book — a key skill for success in school as well as life. Here are some tips on how to start and sustain a book discussion with your child:

Before your child reads a book, ask:

- Why did you select this book?
- What makes you think this book is going to be interesting?
- What do you think the book is going to be about?
- Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read or seen?
- What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?
- What do you think is going to happen?

While your child is reading a book, try asking:

- Will you catch me up on the story? What's happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- If you were that character, what would you have done differently in that situation?
- If the book was a TV show, which actors would you cast in it?
- Where is the book set?
- If the main character in that story lived next door, would you be friends?
- What does the place look like in your head as you read? Would you want to visit there?
- Did you learn any new words or facts so far?
- Why did the author choose that word/choose to describe it like that?

After your child has finished a book, ask questions like:

- What was your favorite part of the book? Why?

- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Would you have ended the book differently? Did it end the way you thought it would?
- Did the problem of the book's plot get solved?
- If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be

