



Teaching reading

A guide for parents

2020 – 2021

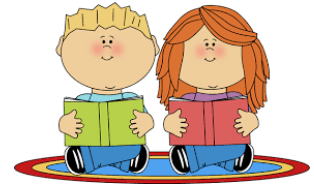
As parents you play a very important part in helping your child to read. Encouraging children to develop a love of books and an interest in written language helps their literacy now and makes a difference to their whole future.

The most important thing is that reading should be a positive, enjoyable experience for both the adult and child, not a chore. Studies show that reading a variety of literature independently by age 15 is the biggest indicator of future success.

The following pages of this booklet explain how you can help at home at three different stages of reading: emergent, developing and independent. It is important to note that children develop at different rates and the stages are not specific to year groups in school. There is also some overlap in skills between all three stages.

READ

Top Ten Tips for all stages of reading:



1. Give lots of praise and encouragement.
2. Lots of discussion about what is being read improves comprehension skills.
3. Reading aloud to children of all ages, even when they become fluent readers develops reading and writing skills.
4. Find a comfortable and quiet place to read and share books.
5. Stop when children are tired.
6. Read at all times of the day, not just at bedtime.
7. A range of reading material is important; fiction, non-fiction and poetry.
8. Join the local library.
9. All adults are good reading role models.
10. Reading and re-reading of old favourites or a simpler text every now and again develops many skills, repetition aids learning.

The stages of reading:

Emergent Reading Stage

This is the first stage of learning to read, it is about recognising what text and print is all about and how books work.



Important things for children at this stage are handling books correctly, turning pages, following print left to right and developing awareness that print is all around them, for example recognising familiar signs, words from favourite television programmes, favourite packets at the supermarket.

Top Tips for Home

- Nursery rhymes are incredibly important at this stage with lots of repetition.
- Share fiction and nonfiction together on a regular basis, daily if possible.
- Have their name in lots of places.
- Repetition of favourite stories develops many skills.

Questions to ask...

- When looking at the front cover – What might the book be about?
- Where are the words?
- Who or what might be inside the book?
- Why did you choose this book?
- When looking at the pictures, can you find the ... in the picture, play 'I spy' with the picture.
- With a known familiar story, complete the rhyme or repetition that is in the story for example with The Three Little Pigs, I'll huff and I'll ...
- What do you think might happen next?



Developing Reading Stage



At this stage children are starting to use their sound knowledge to read words and to enable them to read more fluently and gain confidence when reading books.

In Reception class using the Sounds-Write programme every child will be given a reading book in the autumn term.

At this stage it is important that children read and share a variety of books not just those from the reading schemes used at school. The more they experience different texts the better the reader and writer they will become.

Top Tips for Home

- When reading and sharing stories use a variety of voices to sustain their interest and model using expression to bring stories to life.
- Don't correct every mistake, as children read on, they will often self-correct when they realise it doesn't make sense.
- Encourage them to take more notice of punctuation, pause at full stops and commas, change tone of voice for speech.

Fiction books

Questions to ask...

- When looking at the front cover – What might the book be about? To activate prior knowledge, if the front cover picture
- Stop at various points, what has happened so far?

- What do you think will happen next, why do you think this?

Non-Fiction Books

Questions to ask...

- Looking at the contents page, where will I find information about...?
- How could we use the index to find something out?
- Who do you think would find the book useful/interesting?
- How is the information arranged on the page?
- What was the most interesting fact you learned?

Independent Reading Stage

At this stage your child is able to read more confidently, independently and fluently.



Even though your children may spend more time reading quietly to themselves, parents still have an important role in helping them to develop reading skills. It is important that your child has the opportunity to discuss what they have read to demonstrate their understanding and enable them to think more carefully and deeply about the text.

Top Tips for Home

- Continue to listen to your child read aloud.
- Share a book and read it aloud together, modelling expression and fluency.
- Read a section each in the book especially if your child wants to tackle a more difficult text.
- Recap any words that your child found difficult; you could encourage them to use a dictionary to check meanings.

- Ask questions whilst reading or after they have read the text independently, to develop comprehension skills.
- Please use your judgement when choosing questions, adapt them when discussing the texts.

Questions to ask about characters

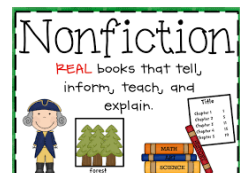


- What does ... look like? Use parts of the story to explain how you know this.
- What sort of things does ... get up to?
- Why do you think that ... behaves in the way they do?
- What have you learned about ...? Where did you get this from?
- Would you like to have ... as a friend? Why/why not?
- Do you think that ... changed in any way during the story? How and why did these changes happen?
- Why do you think ... said "...”?

Questions to ask about settings

- Where do the main events take place?
- What effect does the setting have on the story?
- Why do you think the author chose the settings that he/she has?
- Can you select some good description and say why you think it is so effective?

Non-Fiction Books



Questions to ask...

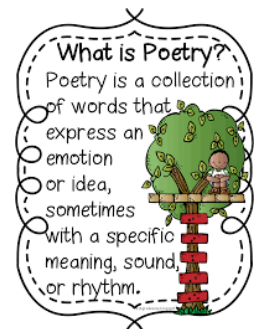
- What have you learnt from your reading today?
- Who do you think would find this book most interesting and useful?
- How is the information arranged on each page?
- How does the way the information is set out help you to understand it?

- Here it says (point to the contents page) ... is on page ... What do you think that page will be about?
- How would you use the index to find something out?
- Could you suggest any ways in which your book could be improved?

Poetry

Questions to ask...

- Can you find out who wrote this poem and when it was written?
- What pictures did it make you think of as you read the poem?
- What is the poem about?
- What is the poet trying to do or say?
- How do you think the poet is feeling about what they are writing about?
- What 'poetic features' can you identify? (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration etc)
- Did the poem remind you of anything else that you have read?
- Does the shape the poem makes on the page, or the sounds it makes when you read it, add to the message?



Useful Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk>

www.literacytrust.org.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk



Don't forget about our recommended reading books for each year group!

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