

Reading at Home – Top Tips for Parents of children in Reception:



This is a crucial time in your child's development. Reading will be fundamental in their education and you have a key role to play in their future!

Please **enjoy** this special opportunity you have to share with your child.

Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else.

Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

Communicate

Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns in the Reading Diary. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading

Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems and information books.

Suggestions for supporting Phonics and reading skills:

- Recap recent sounds learnt using letter symbols. The children may still use actions.
- Practise recognition of tricky words - first learn to recall from memory then learn to write.
- Practise sounding out words in their word book - this will help to build the number of words they know without sounding out and practise applying recent sounds learnt.
- Use technology - there are fantastic free games online and apps you can download for a small fee. These are a few we access in school:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

Hairy Letters or words App

abc PocketPhonics App

Teach your monster to read

App and computer version



Visit booktrust.org.uk/great-books-guide to find lots of suggested books to encourage and inspire children of different ages, reading levels and interests.

Please see your child's class teacher if you have any queries or concerns - we are always happy to give advice.

Many thanks

The Reception team

