

# KS1 Reading - Top Tips for Parents:



## 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. Leaflets and tickets from visits are great too.

**Visit [booktrust.org.uk/great-books-guide](http://booktrust.org.uk/great-books-guide)** to find lots of suggested books to encourage and inspire children of different ages, reading levels and interests.

### **Suggestions for supporting Phonics and reading skills**

- Practise recognition of Y1/2 words - first learn to recall from memory then learn to write. Spot them in their reading books, around the environment.
- Practise sounding out words on signs, out shopping, packets etc
- 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.phonicsplay.co.uk)

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

Twinkl App



Mr Thorne Apps



abc PocketPhonics App



### **Don't forget....**

Don't forget to record any reading in your child's diary and then they will be climbing up the class reading ladder.

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

Many thanks

The KS1 team