

## Why is reading so important?

Reading is a vital skill for life. It not only helps us widen our knowledge and experiences but also allows us to increase our confidence in many aspects of our lives.

Helping children to make progress in reading is most successful when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give will improve your child's progress.

## How can I support my child at home with their reading?

From a very early age, children are surrounded by print at home and in the wider community. Children can be encouraged to enjoy books by sharing them with adults.

Take every opportunity to read with your child, whether this is shop signs, labels on food packaging, notice boards or adverts. It is important to:

- *Choose a quiet time and place to read with your child away from interruptions*
- *Look at the book together and spend a few moments discussing the blurb and front cover before you open the book. Ask your child to predict what the book is about.*
- *Allow plenty of time for discussion before you turn over a page. A good question to ask is, 'What do you think will happen next?'*
- *Ask your child questions to check their understanding of the text. For example, 'What was your favourite part? How did you feel about the main character? Which words show us the character is happy/angry/upset etc.'*
- *Most importantly give your child lots of praise and encouragement.*

## What should I do if my child comes to a word which they cannot read?

It is important to help and support your child if they get stuck on any words rather than simply telling them the words. Encourage them to have a go at working the word out by:

- *Looking at the pictures for clues*
- *Reading onto the end of the sentence, missing out the word and then going back and working out what the word says.*
- *Looking for letter sounds that are recognised and then blending them together.*

Once they know what the tricky word says, always ask them to re-read the sentence so that they get a chance to say the word within the context of a sentence.

## How can I support a confident reader at home?

Confident readers may have reached the stage where they no longer wish to read to an adult and want to read silently to themselves. To ensure that a child's reading development continues to move forward, we would encourage parents to question their child about what they are reading to extend their reading and share their enjoyment of the book. The following questions will provide you with some ideas as to what to ask:

- *What kind of book is it? (fiction, non-fiction etc.)*
- *What made you choose this book?*
- *What has happened so far? What might happen next?*
- *How would you like the story to end?*
- *Who are the characters in the story? What are they like?*
- *Can you describe the most exciting part of the story or your favourite part?*
- *If you had written the book, how would you have made it better?*

Children could also be encouraged to write about the text they have read, book reviews, character or scene descriptions, re-writing the ending/beginning and writing an information text about a story are all good ways for them to demonstrate their understanding.

## What should I write in the reading record?

We ask that whenever you have heard your child read at home, or have discussed their book with them that this is recorded in their reading record. Regular comments from parents are invaluable information for teachers. The following are some suggestions as to what could be commented upon:

- *How enthusiastic is your child about the choice of book?*
- *Can your child remember the story so far?*
- *Can your child read the words out of context? (e.g. when you point to a word without reading the whole sentence)*
- *Is your child confident to attempt new words?*
- *Can your child follow the text without using a finger or marker?*
- *Is there a pattern to the mistakes your child is making? (e.g. words ending in 'ed')*
- *Does your child recognise mistakes and self-correct?*
- *Is your child aware of punctuation?*
- *Is your child reading with expression?*

This isn't an exhaustive list and parents are not expected to comment on each of the above after every reading session!



Supporting your child with reading



Information for parents and carers.