



Key Stage 2

Top Tips for Reading at home



"Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education..."

How do we do it in school?

It's important to recognise that each child is different and will be provided with activities and experiences appropriate to his or her need.

In Key Stage 2, we have a variety of learning opportunities:

- *One-to-one reading*, including questioning and discussion
- *Whole Class* or Shared Reading
- *Detailed book study* as part of the term's literacy work (eg 'Beowulf' or 'Rotten Romans')
- *Comprehension* work and sharing texts in literacy sessions
- *Guided Reading*—This involves a group of 4-6 pupils, with a similar achievement level in reading, sharing a text chosen by the teacher. Each pupil has their own copy to read and follow and will be encouraged to respond to the text through a range of questions and discussion. While the teacher leads the group, other groups of pupils will follow a carousel of independent reading activities
- *Phonics* based sessions, particularly for pupils who have just moved to Key Stage 2
- *Reciprocal Reading*—A group comprehension activity with pupils taking independent responsibility for the learning through their roles within the group

Re-read familiar books to boost confidence and encourage fluency.

There is no need to change the book every day, especially if your child is not yet reading it fluently.

How can I help my child with Reading?

- Find a regular time when you can give your full attention to reading—perhaps after school or just before bed
- If your child is reluctant—try to find books you know will be of interest to them
- Check that the text is at a suitable level—reading is not just about de-coding words, but about **fluency, expression and understanding**
- Don't let your child struggle to read a book that's too hard, it could knock their confidence and make them reluctant to read
- Try to listen without interrupting
- Remember, *your reactions are important* — be enthusiastic, use plenty of **praise** for your child's achievements and try not to criticise when they get something wrong
- Ask them to **predict** what they think the text is going to be about
- Ask **questions** about what they have read (*see over)
- Have they understood all the words or do they need to **clarify** the meaning?
- Can they give a **summary** of the plot or part of the book?
- Encourage your child to think critically about the text—does he/she agree or disagree with the author? Why?
- Encourage your child to try different authors
- Join the library together
- Fiction & non fiction — encourage your child to read different types of texts (*eg poems,, stories, information books, newspapers, magazines, comics, TV guides, recipes, leaflets, brochures etc*)
- **Re-read familiar books to boost confidence and encourage fluency, there is no need to change the book every day**

Asking questions after reading

Fiction

- Did you enjoy this book?
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- What was the main character like? How do you know?
- Can you summarise the story in a few sentences?
- Why did the author choose these words/put certain words in bold or italic?
- How does the author make you want to read the next bit?
- Can you find examples of good description?
- How was the main character feeling? How do you know?
- Can you think of another story with a similar theme?

Non-fiction

- Find something that interests you—explain why you chose that bit
- Which parts of the book can help you find the information you need?
- When would you use the index/contents/glossary?
- Do you think the author is an expert? Why/why not?
- How does the layout help you?
- What kind of text is this? How do you know?
- Are there any examples of persuasive language?
- What makes this text successful? Could it be presented better? How?
- Is there any technical vocabulary you don't understand?

Some useful websites:

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/BookList

www.booksforkeeps.co.uk

www.wordsforlife.org.uk

www.lovereading4kids.co.uk

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/children/booklists/>