

Helping Your Child To Read

Book 2

Getting Started



A Guide For Parents

Simonstone St. Peter's C. E. Primary School

Dear Parents,

Your child by now will have had lots of books read to him/her and we hope will have gained much enjoyment from the experience. He/She may be beginning to pick out words in the book and may be trying to match the spoken words with the text by pointing to the print as you did.

He/She will continue to bring home in his/her folder his/her 'Reading Record Book' and we ask for your help again in keeping this up to date. Please initial once he/she has completed his/her reading and if you wish to make any comments, you are welcome to do so. We shall do the same at school. Please remind him/her to bring his/her folder every day.

Now is the time to let your child take a greater part in your shared reading sessions. Here are a few tips to help you both on the 'road to reading.'

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Jacqueline Booth





Getting Started



Do

- Read the story first. This is not cheating, but it helps your child to predict the text.
- Let him/her re-read the story pointing to the words as you go along.
- Look for repeated words and make a game out of finding them together. Perhaps your child will notice two words starting with the same letter. Tell him the 'sound' this initial letter makes. Look for others.
- Re-read the story together several times. Repetition is important to children.

Don't

- Force the pace. Remember reading should be enjoyable. Supply a word if your child is getting into difficulties.
- Worry if his/her reading is not word perfect, e.g. if he/she reads house instead of home, don't correct him/her - he/she has grasped the meaning.
- Destroy his/her confidence and give any hint of failure.
- Discourage reading 'by heart' and 'pretend reading.' It is an important stage in learning to read.



Please

- Take him/her to your local library regularly. Make it a once a week treat.
- Use your local bookshop to buy paperbacks telling simple stories which you can read together at home. Avoid 'reading scheme' books - school may have these already and be able to support them with the correct back-up material which is not usually available in the shops.
- Use bedtimes as an opportunity to read. Enjoy the books together and don't forget to look at the pictures.
- Look out for books with cassettes. There are many in the shops with stories, songs, rhymes and poems on them.



Point out the written word in other places: - on adverts, on the television, road signs and on shops.



Make short 'homemade' books

You could print captions for your child's illustrations. Use small letters (except for the first letter of a name).

Use your skill

- As an artist to make illustrations for your child's made up story.
- As a story teller to write a special story for your child.
- As a photographer to provide pictures for a 'family outing' story.
- As an inventor to devise games and activities to make reading and words even more fun.
- As a poet to make comic rhymes. Children love rhyming words and this will often help later with reading and spelling.
- **Please share your good ideas with us at school!**

