

Helping Your Child To Read

Book 3

Keeping Up The Good Work



A Guide For Parents

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

Dear Parents,

By now your child will be launched well into the world of books. If between us, we have taught him/her to read carefully, he/she will not only be able to read, but will have developed a love for story books, and may be beginning to realise the importance of non-fiction material.

In this booklet we have tried to keep you informed about the ways you can help encourage reading independence. Please continue with a short regular reading time when you and your child are 'in the mood' and enjoy the time together. Don't forget the 'book at bedtime' may still be an important part of your child's routine and don't be too bored with the same old favourites being thrust into your hands.

During this stage, some parents feel progress is slow. Be patient. Learning to read is hard, so be sensitive to how your child is feeling. However, if you are particularly concerned, do come into school and talk over any problems.

Yours Sincerely,

Jacqueline Booth



Continuing With Your Help

1. Before starting the book, look through it together and discuss the illustrations. Think what might happen.
2. If he/she sticks on a word, suggest these ways of helping:

Can you guess it from the picture?

Leave it out and finish the sentence.
Now what word would fit and make sense?

Look at the first letter. What sound does it make? Does that help?

3. If he/she supplies a wrong word, read back to him/her what he/she has said and ask him/her.
4. Let him try and work out the problem word him/herself, but if after more prompting on your part, he/she still struggles, supply the word yourself. Do not let him/her feel that he/she has failed.
5. Bear in mind phonic conventions are complex and therefore relying on letter sounds completely will lead to further problems. For example, 'sounding out' h-e-r-e would not help the child read the word 'here.' It is better to give the initial sound and go back to the beginning of the sentence for another try.
6. Discuss the book when you have finished it. Re-tell a part of the story. Draw a picture or a sequence of pictures.
7. Continue to make books at home,

Of his own made up stories.

Of a family outing or event.
To read to a younger brother or sister.

8. Encourage communication by writing,

Letters to Grandparents or friends.
Birthday and Christmas messages.
Postcards on holiday.

9. Invent games and activities to extend the enjoyment of a favourite book,

Plays, puppet shows, paintings, collages etc.

Have You Any Questions?

Q. Why does my child keep bringing easy books home at the moment?

A. Because it gives him/her a feeling of confidence to be able to race through a book by him/herself. After all, we enjoy reading 'easy material' on occasion. None of us plough through 'The Classics' every time we read.

Q. Why has he/she brought this book home again?

A. Probably because he/she wants to re-read it. Children enjoy repetition much more than adults.

Q. Shall I stop him/her reading comics?

A. Good gracious no! They provide for many children a valuable and enjoyable bridge from a non-reading situation to an interest in books.

Q. Why is my child not reading as well as the others in his/her group?

A. Children's reading develops at different rates. **Never** compare with others or your own child may sense your disappointment. Praise every success he/she has, however small.

Q. My child does not want to read to me any more, what shall I do?

A. Don't force him/her, but welcome any efforts he/she does make. Rekindle his/her interest in books by reading an exciting serial story to him/her chapter by chapter. Or try and find a

book that really interests him, possibly a hobby. Read it together, and remember some children prefer information books.