

## Sharing books and listening to your child read.

Listening to your child read at home and enjoying stories and poems with them is an effective way to help your child with reading and help them to develop their language and vocabulary.

### **To make this time as enjoyable as possible here are some points to consider.**

- Even though the children are getting older and many of them are reading to themselves, they still like to listen to stories – you could read to them or take it in turns to read
- Your child can read from a variety of sources, e.g. story books, newspapers, magazines, comics and even from the internet. They may want to listen to audio books of stories or watch stories being told on TV. If you google BBC Schools Radio you will find hundreds of stories on there and they are all free to listen to.
- Choose a time each day when both of you want to read.
- Find a comfortable place to sit, which is free of distractions.

### **Before reading a new book:**

- Look at the cover together and discuss what it might be about. What characters do they think they will meet? Are there any clues as to what might happen?
- If the text has pictures you may want to look at those too – it helps to flick through and have clues for what new vocabulary may be coming up.
- If the book has a summary on the back you could read this and discuss it.

### **Whilst reading.**

- As your child reads allow them to try and sound out difficult words.
- Any unfamiliar words can be discussed during the reading time or later.
- **Questions to ask** (for both children reading to you and if they are reading to themselves)

Who is the main character?

Who is your favourite character and why?

Who is telling the story?

What has happened so far?

What do you think will happen next?

Where is the story set?

If you could be one of the characters who would you be and why?

How do you think the story will end?

How could the story have ended differently?

What was the most interesting part of the book? Why?

What happened to.....?

If you were inside the book and could stop something from happening or make something happen what would it be?

- For non fiction /factual books you might want to ask what they have found out that they didn't know before. (It's good to give them a number - eg what three new things have you learnt. Give me two of the best facts.)

Activities to try after reading:

- List some of the best words and phrases from the book (bring them in to school to share!)
- Compare the book with the book you read before. Which was best and why?
- This is for fun - go back over a page, could you read a line or two in different ways - slowly, quickly, musically, angrily, quietly, loudly?

Finish each session with a positive word about your child's reading.

We want the children to enjoy reading, listening to stories and that special time with you. If you have any problems, or need more support, please come and see us.

Enjoy your reading!