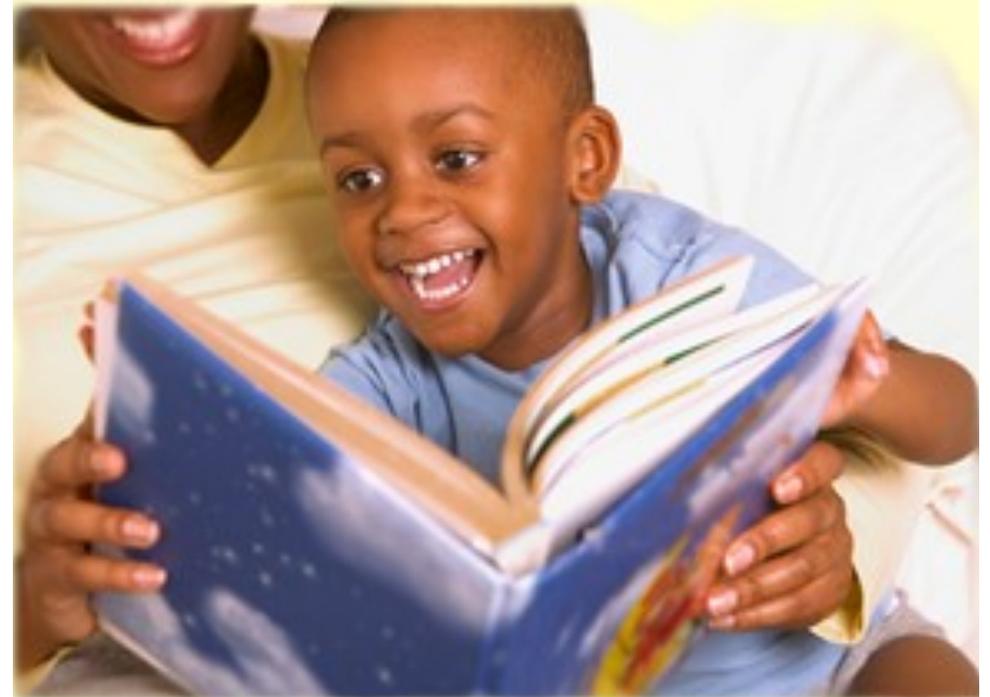




These ideas and more (including a range of free e-books) can be found on the Oxford Owls website www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Reading Together



Read to Succeed

10 top tips to develop early reading skills at home

Early Reader



Why is reading so important ?

Reading is one of the most important skills we learn. It not only helps us to access knowledge and experiences but also increases our confidence in many aspects of our lives. Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better results at school.

For children to fully achieve this success we need to work in partnership with you to give our children a rich reading experience. We appreciate that many of you are more than willing to help with your child's reading but are unsure of how to go about this, so we have put together this booklet of handy tips to help you on your child's journey to success...

Sharing Books

Tip 1—Read together every day

At first your child will be bringing home books to share. Just five minutes a day spent sharing a book with your child will really get them hooked on books.

Tip 2—Talk about the book before you begin reading

Talk together about the books. Talking about pictures and words is a really useful way to help develop your child's vocabulary. You could also introduce your children to book vocabulary e.g. Title, Author, Cover & Page.

Tip 3— Link to your own experience

Compare events in books with things that you have done together. This helps your child make connections between books and their own experiences.

Tip 4— Read with different voices

Read with expression and try using different voices for different characters.

Tip 5—Ask each other questions

Ask each other questions about the book . Try and develop your child's thinking skills by getting them to predict what would happen next or imagining how the characters feel. Let them tell you which was their favourite part and why.

Tip 6—Retell stories and events

Get your child to retell the story in their own words. Help them by giving prompts e.g. What happened first? Next? After that?

Tip 7—Be a model reader

Have some time in the day where your child sees you reading. It could be a newspaper, book, recipe or even Facebook. Show your child how important reading is in your life.

Early Reading Skills

When your child's teacher feels it is appropriate they will send home some simple reading books. Share them as you shared previous books, talking , comparing, questioning and re-telling.

The first books will be designed to allow your child to 'read' independently and apply their phonic skills—sounding out words on a page. They won't be a gripping read, but be patient and above all be impressed!

Tip 8—Link letter sounds to shapes

At school children will be learning letter sounds through the Read, Write Inc. programme. Make sure you know how to say the sounds correctly. If you are unsure your child's teacher can help you.

Tip 9—Look at words and letters

After you have read the book play letter and word spotting games with your child. How many t's can you find? Can you find "and" on this page? How many words begin with the letter b?

Tip 10—Sound out first

If your child gets stuck, the first strategy to work out a word should always be sounding it out (blending). Say each sound individually and then put them together quickly to hear the word. If your child can't work it out say it for them and move on. Unfortunately there are some words that can't be sounded out. These are called tricky or RED words. Your child will be learning these at school and they will be sent home to practise in the form of a key ring or book mark.