

Helping your child read



A reading support booklet for KS1 parents



So how can you help?

Reading is one of the most satisfying ways that parents can help children progress in their learning. Like all skills be it football, playing an instrument or learning a language , only a certain amount can be achieved through teaching - the most important part is practice.



For your child to become a lifetime reader, they need to understand what they are reading, gain from the words and enjoy books. You can help so much by ensuring that reading is a regular experience.

You can help by :

- * being positive. Praise your child for trying hard at their reading. It's alright to make mistakes.
- * encouraging children to sound out a word if they find it difficult.
- * reading a wide range of texts. It is not just books your child can read. Comics, signs and labels on food will all widen your child's vocabulary.
- * reading yourself. Set a good example by reading for pleasure and talking about the reading you do at work and home.

Most importantly enjoy reading with your child and you will be helping them acquire a skill for life.

Reading at home

When your child first begins to read they use their phonics and context clues to work out unknown words. As they become more confident, it is important that they keep reading independently, extending the words they recognise and continue to use their phonics to work out unknown words.



As their fluency increases it now becomes more important to check that they have understood the text and begun to take on the nuances of meaning. To help your child at their stage, still read with them and encourage them to read to you, but also let them read in depth and then ask what the book was about and explore ideas from it with them. There are some ideas and questions in their booklet to support you with this.

The skills continue to be taught in school and the opportunity to practice these as regularly as possible at home, alongside their reading target, is very important.

The children should use examples from their reading book to answer these questions.

Evidence Questions (analytical - Building on existing knowledge)

What makes you think that?

Which words give you that impression?

How do you feel about....?

Can you explain why....?

What do these words mean and why do you think the author chose them?

Why did the author choose (e.g setting)?



Opinion Questions (synthesis - taking an idea from one context and applying to another)

What is the opinion on this book?

What evidence do you have to support your view?

Using all the evidence in the book, can you tell me what you feel about...?

Given what you know about... what do you think he/she/it should have done?

Have you changed your mind aboutsince reading this book?



Reading in school

Throughout the school the skill of reading is taught in small guided reading groups. The children in these groups are at the same stage of development in their reading.

The need for the teacher to assess the child's reading fluency by hearing them read individually varies with the competency of the reader. In the early stages the children will work individually with an adult more frequently than children who become fluent.

Each child is set an individual target for their reading and will be working towards this in their guided reading session as well as when are reading in different areas of the curriculum.

Children will often take home their guided reading book/text and will be asked to read certain pages of it to support their guided reading session.

They will also take home a 'free' reader. This book will be at a level lower than their guided reading book/text so that their fluency and confidence can increase. The guided reading book offers the children the challenge; whether it is in the level of the text or the style it is written.



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Recall Questions/locating information within the text.

Where does the story take place?

When did the story take place?

What did she/he/it look like?

Who was he/she/it?

Where did she/he/it live?

Who are the characters in the book?

Where can you find an important piece of information about...?



Simple Comprehension Questions/checking understanding

What do you think is happening here?

What happened in the story?

What might this mean?

Through whose eyes is the story told?

Which part best describes the setting?

What words and/or phrases do this?

What part of the story do you like best?



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