

Taking an active interest in your child's learning is one of the best ways you can help your child to do better in school and in life. This guide aims to offer some suggestions which you may find useful when reading with your child.

A little reading goes a long way!

Getting Started

- Try and read every day.
- Remember: a good 10 minutes is much better than a difficult half hour!
- Plan a quality, quiet time to read together.
- Read anything that your child is interested in, including, information books newspapers, comics, magazines, poems, rhymes and ebooks.
- Join the local library
Be a good role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or information, he or she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.

Strategies and Reading Behaviours

In school children are taught a range of strategies they can use to help them work out unknown words.

For example:

- Phonics - If they can sound the word out using the phonics they know then encourage this as the first strategy.

- Use the picture as a clue.
- Use picture clues along with the initial letter in the word.
- Predict what the word could be from the context it is in.
- Read on to see if the word can be worked out from the meaning of the sentence.
- As children's reading skills develop they adopt a range of good reading behaviours.

These include:

- Reading from left to right and matches each spoken word to a written one
- Recognises errors
- Re-reading to correct and re-reading to check
- Making meaningful but not always accurate guesses
- Reading with expression

As children progress further they will:

- Use punctuation
- Follow print with their eyes
- Read more fluently
- Search for information in the print
- Be able to discuss the story and characters which shows an understanding which goes beyond the literal information in the text.

Reading with your child

Book Introduction: Spend time introducing the book. Look at and discuss the front cover. Share the title rather than asking them to read it if the words are unfamiliar.

(see the Question Bookmark for guidance)

Independent reading: During this time try to remind your child of strategies rather than giving unknown words.

Model reading to encourage fluency.

Returning to text for questioning: (See the Question Bookmark for guidance) This is an important part of the reading session as it enables you to see if they have understood what they have read.

More confident readers will also be able to return to the text to find out answers to questions.

Dig deeper in to the text by asking 'why' questions which encourages a deeper understanding.

Important point to remember

- Be patient. When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remember when your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, read that sentence again as children often lose the meaning of what they've just read.
- Allow your child to read to the end of a sentences without interrupting.
- Remind your child to point to each word individually rather than continuously run their finger underneath if they are still learning to match one to one.
- Alternate the strategies you suggest rather than giving the same strategy prompt e.g. sound it out.
- Remember not to expect your child to work out a word that is not in their vocabulary.
- Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Modelling reading helps with intonation and expression.
- Praise!

Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of Millfields Primary School staff should you have any questions.



Reading at Home



*A journey for the mind
A home for the heart*