

# Supporting Your Child with Reading

As parents, you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

## 1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

## 2. Making reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else. Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g. fiction (stories), comics, magazines, poems and non-fiction books.

## 3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words (e.g. a character's name) to maintain the flow. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

## 4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say "No. That's wrong," but "Let's read it together" and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

## 5. Success is the key

Remember nothing succeeds like success. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a difficult book is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

## 6. Reading on a regular basis

Encourage your child to read on most school days and weekends.

## 7. Reading Record Books

Please remind your child to bring in their reading record book to school on a daily basis, as this is checked by the class teacher. Guided reading sessions are also recorded in your child's record book. We would appreciate it if you could initial your child's book to confirm that they have either read to you (or read independently). Feel free to write any positive comments – or concerns – you have in this book.

## 8. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read.

The following questions may give you some support and guidance on how you can develop their comprehension skills:-

### Fiction Questions

- Describe..., e.g. the giant
- What do you think is happening here?
- What does ..... mean? e.g. proudly
- Through whose eyes is the story told?

- Which words/phrases tell you that....e.g. the setting is spooky
- What do you think will happen next?
- What makes you think that?
- Who would you like to meet in the story? Why?
- Were you surprised by the ending?
- Why did...? E.g. the boy slam the door when he left the room?
- How would you feel in the same situation?
- Can you invent a new title for the book?
- If you were going to interview the characters/author what would you ask?
- Could the story be improved? How?
- How did the author make the character seem angry/happy/sad/excited?

### **Non-Fiction Questions**

- How does the layout help the reader? E.g. paragraphs, sub-headings, font
- Why do we need a glossary in a text?
- How could the information be better presented?
- Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not?
- When would you use the index page in the book?
- Do you agree with ...'s opinion?
- What evidence can you find to support your view?
- Does this remind you of any other books you have read and how?
- What does the word.....mean?
- What can you tell about the viewpoint of the author?
- What makes this a successful text? Give reasons