

Reading with your child

As a parent/carer the best advice anyone can give is that for you to try make any reading you do with your child a fun and positive experience.

Any fun activity that allows children to enjoy using the written word will help them learn to read so sharing books, talking about stories, playing games, listening to stories, even watching TV programmes together and talking about them all contributes.

To get good at reading we need to do lots of practice; if the experience is difficult then children won't want to engage in the activity. So keep it easy and keep it fun.



Things to think about

Is the book at the right level?

- To improve their reading children need to be able to read 95% of the words correctly.
- We need to make learning to read as easy as we can for children so that they feel successful. This will encourage them to read more.
- If your child is struggling to read a lot of the words in a book then it is too hard. They will not understand what they are reading as they will need to concentrate too much on reading individual words.
- If they really want to read this book then you can read it with them (see the video on paired reading), read it to them or let them listen to an audio book whilst looking at the words.
- Otherwise look for a less challenging book.

Is the book of interest to you and your child?

- In the current situation finding suitable books is really challenging. Ideally you want to find something that is age appropriate, the right level of difficulty and interesting.
- Some children prefer story books – others may prefer books about a hobby or sport they enjoy.
- Try to share a variety of different books – story books (adventures, fairy tales, science fiction etc.), poetry, factual books, recipe books, atlases, comics and magazines – they all will support your child to get meaning from text.

Give your reading sessions a structure

<p style="text-align: center;">Warm up 5mins</p> <p>If possible an easy or much loved book - it doesn't matter if you have read it a hundred times - include jokes, poems or lyrics.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Challenge 10 minutes</p> <p>The new book we are learning - set a challenge (see below) but make it one they will be able to succeed in with just a little effort.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Warm down 5 mins</p> <p>Write a sentence about what you have read. Write it on some card, then cut it up and recreate it. Perhaps add more difficult, interesting words.</p>
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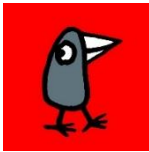





Making progress

When you hear your child read it is useful to decide what aspect of reading you are going to focus on.

Here are some ideas...

- Listening to themselves reading and noticing when it sounds wrong or when it doesn't make sense.
- Reading with intonation and expression - not like a robot.
- Using phonic skills to sound out the sounds in a word and then blend them together to make the word.
- Using punctuation - so stopping at the full stops, pausing at the commas, responding to the exclamation marks.
- Using the picture to predict what might happen next in the story.
- Being able to retell the story.
- Being able to pick out a piece of information to answer a question or that tells you about a character or how a character is feeling.
- Looking for words with different word patterns – for example, ending in -ing, -ed, beginning with th-, sh-.
- Being able to answer questions that ask them to use the information e.g. why do you think he did that? Where in the book does it tell you that? What do you think will happen next?

Here are some ideas from the internet

	<p>Nosy Crow – this is a children book publisher, but they also do audio books and produce resources to go with the books too. I particularly recommend the fairy tale apps, they are beautifully illustrated and very interactive. They have produced some free resources too. Nosy crow</p>
	<p>Nessy is a subscription web site, many of your schools will already subscribe to this and you can log in at home to access the games and learning resources nessy.</p>
	<p>FREE Teach your monster to read – This free App takes you through all the basic early phonics and it strangely compelling, especially the opportunity to select various changes of outfits for your monster. Teach your monster to read</p>
	<p>Match of the Day Magazine Subscription – this is on special offer at £1 per issue for 4 issues and may get your footie mad child to contemplate reading match of the day</p>
	<p>FREE National Geographic A renowned reading resource, National Geographic and National Geographic for Kids contains articles, videos, games and more to help kids learn about different places and animals around the world. Content is free, and students wanting to create an account can earn badges for viewing and interacting with content. national geographic</p>
	<p>Oxford Owl Site which includes short videos on 'Helping Struggling Readers by Jean Gross and 'Helping struggling readers' by Jean Gross and 'top tips for reading' by Julia Donaldson both short videos can be found here. Oxford's free e-books are available here. You can search by age, reading level, series or book type to find something to suit your child!</p>