

Why reading and sharing stories matters...



It's the most important thing you can do to help your child succeed. Research shows that involvement in your child's reading and learning is more important than anything else in helping them to fulfil their potential.

Books contain new words that will help build your child's language and understanding. Children who are familiar with books and stories are better prepared to make the most of the literacy teaching in school.

Reading together is fun and helps build relationships. Reading with children, or talking about what they read, is a wonderful way to show that it is an important and valued way to spend free time.

The impact lasts a lifetime. Readers are more confident and have greater job opportunities.

Children learn by example, so if they see you reading, they are likely to want to join in.



Supporting Your Child's Reading



in Years 1 - 4

Reading

The benefits of sharing books with your child on a daily basis cannot be underestimated, particularly story books.

As your child progresses to reading the story aloud, support the decoding of the text by encouraging your child to:

- use contextual information (e.g. the picture);
- re-read a sentence to check the context;
- to use their phonic knowledge and knowledge of word shape and spelling conventions and rules.

It may be necessary to tell your child a word they are stuck on if the flow of the story is interrupted too much. It is worth remembering that it is not always necessary to correct your child if a word is omitted or a word is substituted, as long it does not change the meaning of the sentence.

Once your child becomes a fluent reader, reading aloud is not as important, however, you can help your child to develop comprehension and thinking skills by asking them questions about the text.

Book Talk

Talk to your child about the book:

- share the title and front page - what might the story be about?
- ask your child to make predictions about what might happen at regular intervals;
- discuss what happened in the story and at the end;
- ask your child what he/she liked/disliked about the story;
- discuss similarities with other stories;
- discuss whether there were any new/difficult words;
- who were the main characters and how would you describe them?
- for non-fiction texts, how was the text set out and why?
- did your child enjoy the book and can you give reasons why?
was there any interesting use of language e.g. use of similes & metaphors?

10 tips on hearing your child read



1. Choose a quiet place and time, away from distractions.
2. Make reading, telling and sharing an enjoyable experience. Try not to pressurise if your child is reluctant or loses interest.
3. Maintain the flow - if your child mispronounces or struggles with a word, don't interrupt immediately, instead allow opportunities for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than trying to sound out every one.
4. Be positive - if your child gets a word wrong, say "let's read it together" and point to the words as you say them.
5. Boost confidence with lots of praise for achievements.
6. Success is the key - giving a child a book that is too difficult can affect their progress with reading. Struggling with a book with too many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.
7. Visit and use the library.
8. Communicate - complete school reading record books regularly with positive comments showing you are interested in your child's progress and value reading.
9. Regular practise - little and often, 10 - 15 minutes per day.
10. Talk about books - there is more to being a good reader than just reading words accurately. It is important they understand what is being read. Use some of the ideas and questions on the opposite page.