

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 5 and 6

Helping Older Children with Reading

Encourage your child to choose appropriate books at their own level. It is important that they read a range of texts, fiction and non-fiction, ranging from poetry to newspapers. Use the library if you can. The internet also presents great opportunities for reading, as do comics and magazines - it doesn't always have to be a book. The wider the range, and greater the variety, the better though. Older children can help younger members of the family or friends with their reading.

Book Talk

Talk to your child about books they are reading and share good reads. Encourage your child to use a dictionary to look up new words so that they can feel confident in using these words in their own writing. Some questions you could ask :

- 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. similes/metaphors?

Fluent Readers..... so what next?

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.

Questions to Develop Understanding and Ideas



- ◆ What do you think is happening here?
- ◆ Through whose eyes is the story told?
- ◆ Which bit of the story best describes the setting? Which words and phrases do this?
- ◆ Can you think of other stories which have a similar theme or deal with the same issues?
- ◆ What genre is this story?
- ◆ I wonder what the writer intended? What was in their mind when they wrote this?
- ◆ What do these words mean and why did the author choose them?
- ◆ How has the author used adjectives?
- ◆ Why did the author choose this setting?
- ◆ What is your opinion of the book/character?
- ◆ Can you support your views and ideas with reference to the text?
- ◆ Using all the evidence available, what do you feel about.....?
- ◆ What would this character think about.....?
- ◆ Did you enjoy this story?
- ◆ What makes it a successful story? What evidence do you have to justify your opinion?
- ◆ Could it be better? How?