

## Helping your child with reading at home

Your child will read at school, individually, in groups and as part of a class every week. There are lots of ways you can support this at home.

We would encourage you to hear your child read their reading books as often as possible (remember little and often is best), but there are also other ways that you can read with your child or promote the pleasure of reading.

Becoming a good reader involves the development of important skills;

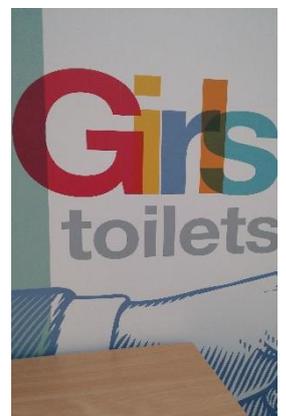
- \* Using language in conversation
- \* Listening and responding to stories read aloud
- \* Recognising and naming the letters of the alphabet and the sounds that they make
- \* Reading often so that recognition of words becomes automatic and easy
- \* Learning and using new words
- \* Understanding what is read

Model a love of reading with your child – let children see that you value books. Seeing adults enjoying reading from books, newspapers, magazines, recipes or menus will make children want to read themselves.



Keep books safe and encourage children to have a special place where their books can be stored. Show them how to turn pages carefully.

Children learn from the world around them and from seeing labels, notices and signs which are written in print. Encourage children to look for words they know all around them!



Make time to read with your child and hear them read. Encourage them to share reading with friends, grandparents, brothers, sisters and other family members.

Try to provide a peaceful atmosphere with no distractions so that children can fully enjoy listening to, or reading a book.

Practise the sounds (phoneme) of language – read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems and songs.

### Play simple word games



Games like 'I Spy' are great for showing that every word begins with a letter or phoneme.

Play card games like *Bingo, memory cards or Snap etc.*

Rhyming games - *'How many words can you make up that sound like the word cat?'*

You can also play games where children identify the odd one out in a list like *cat, mat, dot, rat.*

### Other ways to support your child's reading

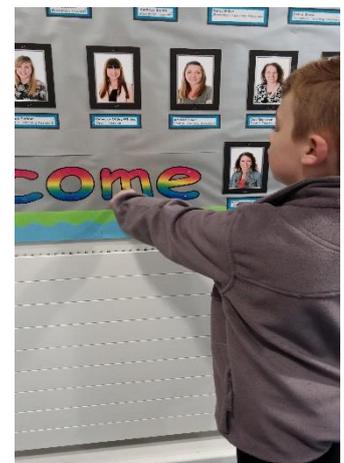
Help your child take spoken words apart and put them back together.

Help your child separate the sounds/phonemes in words, listen for the beginning and ending sounds/phonemes and put separate sounds/phonemes together.

Let children have time to attempt words that they are unsure before you give them the word. Help them to get the initial sound/phoneme or try breaking the word into smaller sections. If your child is struggling, give them the word but encourage them to re-read the sentence correctly to reinforce the new word they have learnt and hear themselves successfully reading the sentence.

Practise the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them! Practise the sounds/phonemes that letters make too.

You could reinforce the letters and sounds (phonemes) your child is learning by cutting out letters, and pictures of things that begin with that letter, from magazines or comics and create a collage.



Share stories with your child and re-read familiar books. Children learn the patterns of language from hearing stories and need practise in reading comfortably and with expression using books they know.

They may even enjoy reading the story to younger sibling or friend.

Join your local library – children can have access to hundreds of good quality books, both fiction and nonfiction... and its free!



Write labels under pictures or objects to show them that words belong to things.

Model reading from left to right by pointing to words with your finger, then theirs.

Encourage children to use the pictures to support them and discuss new words.

Talk to your child about what is going on in a book or story. Ask questions such as;

- Which character did you like best? Why?
- Why was the King upset?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How did the girl feel at the end of the story?

Keep in touch with the school and let us know if you feel your child is finding the level of books they have been given, or areas of their reading, difficult. Please also feel free to share any reading successes or areas of reading interest that your child really enjoys, with us.

If English is not your family's first language, look for books that are printed in a dual language. You can talk about books or stories in any language.



The key words and 'tricky' words are the words that your child will come across regularly in both their reading and writing, and includes some which are difficult to sound phonetically or are frequently misread or misspelt.

Practise these words by making Flash cards. *'How many words can you read in a minute?'*

Challenge children to find given words in books they are reading.

Make words out of play dough or letters made from a variety of fabrics or materials.

Praise your child for trying hard with their reading. Celebrate their successes, but let them know that it is all right to make mistakes!

**Reading is one of the most valuable and rewarding skills your child will learn.**

We believe that children who read regularly to an adult at home, make greater and quicker progress in the development of their reading and comprehension skills and therefore any time you can spend hearing your child read or talking about things you have read or explored together will provide valuable support to their learning.