

Getting Children Ready For Reading



Now your child is in Reception, we would like you to join us in helping your child as they start to read. We try and make this process as natural and as fun as possible. Early experiences can affect a child's attitude to reading. We want their experiences to be as positive as possible.

Here are some ideas for how you can read with your child at home. Remember, reading also includes looking at items around the home such as food packets and also in their environment such as shop signs. The most important messages are:

- Relax and have fun!
- Don't force your child to read, wait until they are ready.
- Take time to enjoy books together.

Picture Books

Picture books help the child learn book skills such as holding a book, turning pages, knowing where the front and back covers are and understanding terms such as author, illustrator and title. They also give the children the opportunity to discuss the pictures and make up their own story. This way they are learning to look for clues which will help them read unfamiliar words later on. When sharing a picture book with your child:

- Talk and ask questions about the pictures and discuss the characters in the story.
- Look for specific items in the picture by name, colour or letter sound. For example, 'Can you see the green leaf?' or 'Can you see something beginning with b?'
- Ask your child what they liked and disliked about the story and characters.
- Encourage your child to create a story and sequence the events.
- Use the pictures to predict what might happen next.

Early Reading Books

Early reading books usually have common words, repeated words and rely on picture clues. Keep talking about the books and encourage your child to:

- Point to the words from left to right.
- Match words to pictures.
- Find matching words.
- Work out unknown words using, for example, picture clues, word matching, initial sound, or guessing from the context of sentence or story. If these strategies don't help, tell them and (hopefully) next time they will remember!
- Discuss the feelings of the characters and ask how they might feel if it happened to them.
- Talk about the story on personal terms and ask questions such as, 'What would you do if you were them?'

Relax and enjoy reading with your child. If they see you enjoy reading, that will pass on very strong messages about what fun reading is. If you are unsure about reading with your child please come and talk to one of the Reception Team.

Happy Reading!