

Reading Ideas and Tips for Parents

How can I help my child become a happy, confident reader?

Reading regularly with your child is one of the best ways that you can help your child to be a successful learner throughout school and beyond. Support from home is crucial for children to succeed in becoming keen and fluent readers who love books and all that books have to offer.

- Read with your child each day
- Regular short reading sessions are much more effective than fewer longer sessions
- Make a regular reading routine and stick to it
- Make the reading session a positive, fun time when your child can enjoy your full attention
- Be a role model for your child - your child needs to see you reading too!
- Raise the profile of reading in your home. Have family reading time, make books special, create a special place for reading
- Read a range of genre together
- Read books that your child wants to read or hear
- Tap into their interests and read children's magazines, non-fiction, comics, websites, recipes, and instructions as well as stories
- Have family visits to the library
- Keep reading bedtime stories to engender your child's love of books
- Sing action rhymes and songs
- Enjoy special reading times with your child - you are making a difference

How can I help my child read their book from school?

Before you begin to read the book together

- Look at the front cover and ask your child to guess what the story might be about
- Read the synopsis on the back (if there is one)
- Set a question in your child's mind before they begin to read - for example, 'See if you can find out why Tom is so excited in the story'
- Allow your child to flick through the pictures first

Whilst you are reading the book together

- Encourage your child to read
- Remember praise, praise, praise!
- Give your child time to sound out and blend - they need more processing time than you might imagine
- Look at the first letter/s in the word, encourage your child to make the sound
- Encourage them to sound the word out, spotting digraphs (two letters that make one sound) as they go
- Break the word in to chunks if it is a long word.

- Give your child time to blend the sounds together to make the word. If they cannot, say the sounds clearly and see if they can blend them together when they hear you say them
- Help them re-read from the beginning of the sentence, so that they do not forget what the sentence is about
- If it is a tricky word that cannot be sounded out or your child cannot read it, try reading ahead to the end of the sentence. Can they work out the word from the context?
- Sometimes, you may need to tell your child the word so that they can carry on with the story and so that they do not get frustrated or bored
- Do performance reading, have fun with the characters' voices as this will encourage your child to use expression when they become more fluent

If your child is really struggling, take it in turns to read a sentence each. Or you could read the story, asking your child to point to the words that you are reading. Encourage your child to join in with the parts they can, or ask them to finish a sentence or re-read the sentence after you. Try and finish each session on a positive note.

- Talk about the story together
- Talk about the characters. For example: What sort of person is she? How do you think she feels? Why did he do that? What would you do if you were him?
- Talk about the events. What has happened in the story so far? What do you think is going to happen next? If you were the author, how would you end the story?
- Ask your child different sorts of questions. These could be...
 - ✓ *Literal* (an understanding of what is explicitly stated in the text)
eg: What did each little pig use to build his house?
 - ✓ *Inferential* (going beyond the literal to draw inferences, using prior experience):
eg: Why are pigs afraid of wolves?
 - ✓ *Evaluative* (making a judgement or interpretation, giving an opinion):
eg: Do you think this is a true story? Why?
- Discuss the language. What interesting or new words have you spotted?

After reading the book together

- Relate events in the story to your child's own experiences. For example, can you remember when you went to the party?
- Ask your child if they liked or disliked the book and ask them to tell you why.
- Who was your favourite character and why?
- Have we read any other stories by the same author?

**Remember to praise your child for their efforts
and for the progress that they are making**