

Enjoy reading everywhere.

It doesn't always have to be a book. Every day there are lots of opportunities for you to encourage your child to get reading.

Things to try:

- Go online together and reading or printing off a web page that interests them.
- Carry a book or comic in your bag to share when you are out and about, on the bus, train, etc.
- Encourage them to read traffic signs, adverts, cereal packets, simple news headlines, DVD covers or film reviews.

Ask for extra help if you think your child needs it. It is a staggering fact that around 1 in 5 children reach the age of 11 unable to read confidently. It may be that despite all attempts your child still struggles when it comes to reading. This can be a challenge to both the child and their parent/carer but the earlier any problem is spotted the sooner something can be done about it. There are a range of reasons why your child may be struggling but there are a wide range of organisations which can provide support, practical help and specialist advice.

Things to try:

- Talk first to your child's teacher about any concerns you have – they will be able to offer practical advice and options for getting extra help.
- Check your child's eye sight. Taking your child to an optician for a free eye test could rule out whether your child has eye tracking problems or sight difficulties.
- Look online, there are lots of websites that provide advice and support. A good example is the Springboard website where they list a range of specialist organisations which can help.
www.springboard.org.uk

Focus on what you can do, not what you can't. Sometimes as parents it can feel like we're working flat out just to fit everything in! But remember,

Think outside the book!

Never before have children had such access to a range of wonderful creative story and picture books, websites, applications, audio books and mobile devices. E-readers and interactive books are now adding further to the wealth of exciting opportunities for children to read. However, children still need to 'crack the code' by learning the basic building blocks for reading. As your children grow up ask them the kind of things they like to read and 'how' they like to read them. Things to try:

- Joining your local library. Not only do they provide access to a huge variety of free books, they also provide DVD's, audiobooks and even internet access for a small charge. You will need ID to sign up.
- Making a simple book together with pictures they draw or photos they take and help them to write a simple story alongside it.
- Remembering that having fun talking, listening, telling stories and reading together will not only help your son or daughter learn to read but will create memories for you both that will last forever.

Have fun!

Children love it when their parents play with them and praise them. If you have fun reading stories then chances are your child will too! Younger children can have a short attention span so 'little but often' might be the best way to keep them motivated and enthusiastic.

Things to try:

- Reading adventure or ghost stories in the dark or under the duvet by torchlight. Try reading the book in a funny accent or breaking up the character parts so you take it in turns to read.
- Making up a story about your child and all their favourite toys – and use them to act it out.
- Encouraging them to be 'story detectives', looking for clues in the pictures and text to help with challenging words.
- Making up a treasure hunt around your home with a clue in every room for your child to find and read.

Make a regular time together.

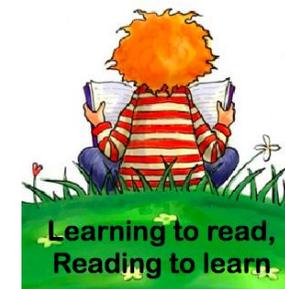
Creating a regular 'special time' to read together can help younger children see the magical world that can be unlocked by the opening of a

Woolton Primary School



Learning to Read.

This leaflet has some creative, practical and easy ways to help you support your child as they start learning to read and enjoying reading for themselves.



Learning together... Achieving together.

Strike a balance between perfection and connection.

although we all find it hard to make the time to read and play with our children, when it comes to reading just a few simple things can make all the difference. There are also lots of places to find advice, tips, and resources.

Things to try:

- Talk to your child's teacher or teaching assistant about their reading. They will have some great ideas and will be keen to help.
- Ask your local library whether they run story telling workshops or if they lend out story tapes or CDs so your child can enjoy listening to stories as they are learning to read.
- Talk to other parents about what books their children like and swap ideas about what they've found works for them.

Find the right level.

Many young children struggle with reading because they are introduced to books which are too hard for them. Every child develops at their own speed so try to be patient, looking for stories which give your child just the right level of challenge.

Things to try:

- Encourage your child to choose a book they want to read – books with pictures are often the best to help them gain confidence.
- Ask your child's teacher about the types and level of book that will best suit their level of reading.
- Read harder books to them if they want to hear more complex stories, but let them read the easy bits.
- Read their favourite book again and again with them. Repetition helps your child learn new words.

book, comic or magazine and learn to love the time when they have your undivided attention.

Things to try:

- Build a regular story time into your child's bedtime routine.
- Switch off the TV and your mobile to read with them. Resist the urge to tidy their room or do the washing up and give them your time to sit and read together.
- Tell them about a book or story you liked when you were a child. You may still be able to find a copy of it on the internet!
- Make up a story or telling them about when you were a child or something that happened to you at school – remember you don't always need a book to tell a good story.

Take time to listen, listen, listen!

In the middle of a busy day it can be easy to rush reading too, often reading the words for your child to hurry them along. Try to take time, instead, to really 'tune in' to what they are saying; slowing down to listen to them without interrupting will help them see that you value what they have to say.

Things to try:

- Listen with your eyes as well as your ears – giving them your full attention as they talk or read to you.
- Take it in turns to read parts of the story.
- Tell them one thing you really enjoy about listening to them read. This will encourage them to do it again.

As your child begins to grow in confidence in reading they're still bound to make mistakes. Get into the habit of praising them for all the words they get right – not just focussing on the ones they are struggling with. At the same time, try to recognise any patterns in the ones they do get wrong and think about the best way to correct mistakes.

Things to try:

- Praise them for the words they get right - it really works wonders!
- Look out for things which will motivate your child to read – instructions on how to enter a competition, make a model or scanning a TV listing to discover when a favourite show is on.
- Make a mental note of any words that your child repeatedly struggles with and spending a few minutes at the start of every reading time trying them out.

Talk about what you've read together.

Talking about what you've just read together helps children think about what they've read, boosts their imagination and grows their confidence. It's also a good way to pick up on new words and check that they understand what they've read.

Things to try:

- Get your child to think of questions they can ask you to test if you've been listening!
- Ask how they think a particular character in a story might be feeling (you can look at the faces in pictures to help them get started).
- Ask them to tell you what they would do if they were in the story, or what they think is going to happen next. These questions encourage your child to say more than 'yes' or 'no'.

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