



"Where Childhood Matters"

Reading with your child.

Stay positive

Children need lots of praise and encouragement to help them to see reading as a positive experience. Encourage your child to look at the illustrations, talk about the story, what might happen next, sound out the words which can be sounded out using phonics knowledge and help them with those that they can't. If your child is tired or reluctant then do something else and come back to it or read them a story instead.

Persevere

Little and often is best and remember to stay positive.

Patience

It is easy to think that the higher the stage, the better the reader. This isn't always the case. It is hugely important that your child understands what they have read and have built up a breadth of reading experiences as it is this which will lead to a love of reading and wanting to read. In the early stages of reading it is easy to think that your child's book is far too easy but there are so many features within a book which can be discussed and are as important as the words read. Encourage your child to read books which are not school books, especially if it is inspired from an interest which they have, such as super hero's or fairies, for example, found in a variety of reading materials such as comics, online information and non-fiction books.

Teaching your child to read at school

These are some of the ways in which we develop your child's reading.

- Phonics.
- Individual reading - children choose their own books wherever possible, guided by the class teacher.
- Letter flash cards, word cards.
- Guided reading.
- Shared reading - reading to the children.
- Reading relevant to current topic work.

- By having a comprehensive scheme of reading books.
- Recognising the relationship between reading and writing, and understanding how each feeds in to the other.
- Teaching reading of high frequency words (the words we use a lot in our language) and tricky words - the words which don't follow a spelling pattern rule.
- Sharing targets with the children - in KS1 by using bookmarks.

Phonics

A word which you will hear frequently throughout your child's time in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and, for some children, in to Key Stage 2.

Put simply a phoneme is the sound that a letter makes in order for them to be blended together for reading, for example, ssssssss rather than suh, b instead of buh. These are the sounds the letters make rather than as they are said in the alphabet. 6 phases.

- Phase 1 (listening to sounds).
- Phases 2, 3 and 4 normally takes place in Reception year.
- Phase 5, in Year 1 and Phase 6 in Year 2.
- However, some children need longer on some phases than others and some move through the phases more quickly.

These activities may be supported by letters sent home for children to learn, like flash cards, and then to use them to make words to 'blend' the sounds together.

Reading books

When we feel that your child is ready, we will send home a reading pack which will include a letter for you to read with ways for you to help your child, a reading record which includes all taught phonemes with suggestions of words which include these to help with pronunciation, a reading book and word card. Please do write comments in the reading record as this helps us to know what your child is doing at home and supports us in moving your child forward with their learning. The books are related to the phonics scheme, so link strongly with what the children are learning. The stages generally relate to a child's age and, as with phonics, we would expect the majority of children to be reading the stage relevant to their year group. However, this won't always be the case. Children will read the stage we feel is appropriate for them. This is to ensure that children do not end up with books beyond their comprehension level.

How can you help?

Please read frequently with your child. The children who read frequently at home can make rapid progress. In the early stages it helps if books are read at least twice as this builds confidence and helps to develop fluency and word recognition.

- Continue to listen to, and teach, nursery rhymes.
- Play with words - what rhymes with....? Made up words are fine too!
- Listen to sounds in the environment.
- Remember to use correct pronunciation - no hard sounds ending in 'uh.'
- Play games such as 'eye spy,' guess what's in the box - it's something beginning with....
- Memory games.
- Read to your child.

Guided Reading

Guided reading is an important part of reading at school. It takes place once or twice a week. It involves a group of children who read a book together and talk about the features of the book and what is happening in the story. Guided reading builds up the comprehension skills which are so important to the enjoyment of reading and, again, feeds in to writing.

Reading and Writing

Reading and writing are closely linked and we can encourage these skills by:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At home:• Shopping lists.• Diary - writing what they have done that day or at the weekend.• Writing a postcard.• Puppet diary.• Say what they have done well.• Paintings/drawings - fine motor skills and development.• Thinking out loud.• It is good for children to see you reading and writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At school:• Phonics• Name writing for the activities.• Writing area.• Writing in sand.• Drawings on the floor.• Adult-led and adult-supported writing activities.• Outdoor area chalks, etc.• Encouraged to 'have a go.'• Thinking out loud.• Model reading and writing.
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If you would like any more information please don't hesitate to speak to your class teacher.