



Supporting Reading At Home



The **MORE** that you **READ**,
the more **THINGS** you will **KNOW**.
The **MORE** you **LEARN**,
the more **PLACES** you'll **GO!**
~ Dr. Seuss

An information booklet for parents

SUPPORTING READING

In terms of supporting reading at home, the children need to be encouraged to read stories, poetry, plays and all kinds of information texts. They also need to be able to choose the kinds of books that they enjoy. They may already be hooked onto a particular writer or type of book, or some may be more tuned in to magazines or information texts.

READING ALOUD

As the children progress through the school, they may begin to feel that they do not need to read aloud. All children, regardless of ability, will benefit from reading to someone. It gives them the chance to read fluently with expression in order to keep the listener's attention. Many really enjoy having an opportunity to share their book with a family member or friend. Check your child really understands the book by asking them to relate the story to you.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD IN FS, YEAR 1 OR YEAR 2?

- As well as reading aloud to someone who is listening carefully and giving help where needed, children need to talk about the book and be read to themselves.
- Try to take a regular time as often as you can to read and enjoy books - every bedtime is good!
- Read a book to your child and get them to join in when they can. Children can do this best with rhymes and repeating patterns of words and at the end of sentences.
- Re-read books that are familiar to your child:
 - They enjoy and get satisfaction from reading good books. This helps turn them on to reading and gives them confidence.
 - When they know most of the words, they can focus on reading fluently and with expression.
 - Children can read on their own without having to wait for someone to help them. This means they can do more, which helps them to become better readers.
 - When children know most of the words, they can learn about common letter strings, about forming new words from the ones they already know about and about similarities and differences between words.

- Check your child really understands the book by asking them to relate the story to you or share some facts that they found out.
- When your child reads and gets a word wrong, allow them to complete the sentence before correcting them. Children can often work out the 'difficult' word by understanding the rest of the sentence. You can also help your child to break down 'difficult' words into parts that they recognise.
- Encourage your child to check that what they read makes sense to them.
- When your child comes across words they don't recognise, spend time finding out their meanings and try to use them in everyday life to build up vocabulary skills.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD IN YEAR 3 OR YEAR 4?

- If your child has not yet joined the local library, and you can get to it, now is the time to join. Children need to widen their reading and to use and browse through non-fiction.
- Encourage your child to read stories, poetry, plays and all kinds of information texts. Children need to be able to choose the kinds of books that they enjoy. It is at around this age that children can get hooked on a particular writer or type of book.
- There is evidence that by Year 4, some boys may be losing interest in reading and not doing as well as girls. Some boys are more tuned in to magazines, information texts of all kinds and comics. They need opportunities for this kind of reading at home.
- Your child will be bringing home books from school regularly. They may not need to read aloud so your job in supporting them will change. Even as adults, we like being read to so don't give up on this. Audio books are excellent as they can let your child experience books that they couldn't manage on their own.
- Your child might benefit from reading to younger children. This gives them the chance to read fluently and with expression. Grandparents are often good listeners and readers too!

- Check that your child really understands the book by asking them to relate the story to you or share some information from the book.
- When your child reads and gets a word wrong, allow them to complete the sentence before correcting them. Children can often work out the 'difficult' word by understanding the rest of the sentence. You can also help your child to break down 'difficult' words into parts that they recognise.
- Encourage your child to check that what they read makes sense to them.
- When your child comes across words they don't recognise, spend time finding out their meanings and try to use them in everyday life to build up vocabulary skills.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD IN YEAR 5 OR YEAR 6?

- Through Years 5 and 6, children still need your help and interest.
- Continue to encourage your child to read stories, poetry, plays and all kinds of information texts. Children need to be able to choose the kinds of books that they enjoy and have opportunities to read a variety of texts.
- Encourage your child to check that what they read makes sense to them.
- When your child comes across words they don't recognise, spend time finding out their meanings and try to use them in everyday life to build up vocabulary skills. A dictionary and thesaurus can really help with this.
- Spend time discussing books with your child, focussing on how and why characters act the way they do. Challenge your children to find information in the text which gives you clues to explain this.

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK

To support children of all ages, it is important to discuss the book. Here are some examples of questions that you can ask to develop your child's understanding of the text.

<p style="text-align: center;">RETRIEVAL</p> <p>What was the main character's name?</p> <p>Where did the main character live?</p> <p>How long did ___ go on holiday for?</p> <p>What time did ___ get home?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INFERENCE</p> <p>How did ___ feel when the dragon came?</p> <p>Why did ___ go to the shop?</p> <p>Why was ___ trying to be like everyone else?</p> <p>How is ___ moving at the beginning?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">VOCABULARY</p> <p>What do you think the word ___ means?</p> <p>Which word could replace ___ in that sentence?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AUTHOR'S CHOICE</p> <p>Why did the author use the word sprinted instead of ran?</p> <p>Why has the author chosen to describe the dragon as petrifying?</p>

MOST IMPORTANTLY...

For children of all ages, the most important thing is that we encourage a love of reading and develop their desire to read. Not only is reading a skill necessary in life, it is the key to unlock learning across the whole curriculum throughout their time in school and beyond.

Should you have any questions or need more information or support with reading at home, please contact your child's class teacher via email who will be more than happy to help.

