

My child is a good reader. Can I still help?

Yes! Although children often want to read in their own heads when they become more fluent readers, there are still many things you can do to help.

Discuss what they have read with them: about the characters, plot, the important parts of the story and about what they have learnt. You could also ask them how they felt as they read the book.

Encourage them to think about how the book has been written: the print, the layout, the illustrations, the language the author has used.

My child refuses to read, no matter what I do. How can I help?

- Read to your child as much as possible.
- Try not to make an issue out of it.
- Talk to your child's teacher about it.
- Working together will help.

Useful websites for family reading

A Story for Bedtime www.astoryforbedtime.com

BBC Parenting Website www.bbc.co.uk/parenting

Booktrust www.booktrust.org.uk

The Child Literacy Centre www.childliteracy.com

DfES Parents Centre www.parentscentre.gov.uk

Help them read www.helpthemread.co.uk

Help your child discover... www.dfes.gov.uk/parents/discover

Parent Link www.parentlink.co.uk

Read Together www.readtogether.co.uk

Silly Books www.sillybooks.net

Finding and choosing books

Here are a few useful websites and online resources to help you choose books for children. Your local library will also be able to give advice.

www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk

www.braw.org.uk

www.cool-reads.co.uk

www.guysread.com

www.readingmatters.co.uk

www.mrsmad.com



Reading At Home

Dear Parents,

We all know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give children the best start in reading. Reading together at home is one of the most important ways in which you can help your child become a more confident reader. In addition reading helps your child to become a better writer and speller.

As you share books with your child, you are helping improve your child's reading skills and comprehension skills. You are also encouraging them to enjoy books and reading.

This booklet contains some advice on how to make reading at home a pleasurable experience for both you and your child. I hope that you find it useful.

Please feel free to come into school if you would like any further information about reading at home or if you would like to discuss your child's reading with their class teacher.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ritson

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Supporting Reading At Home

Pause, prompt and praise

PAUSE to allow your child time to work out the new words. **PROMPT** by using some of the techniques outlined below. **PRAISE** your child for trying, whether they are correct or not.

1. It is important to use as many clues as possible when trying to work out an unknown word.
2. Before you turn the page over, encourage your child to predict what might happen next.
3. If your child gets stuck on a word, ask them what word would fit best, ask them to sound out the word (if appropriate) or supply the word yourself.
4. Read out loud to your child. By doing this you can show them that if they use expression, it makes the story more interesting to listen to.
5. Encourage your child to retell the story you have shared. This will give you an idea of how much they have understood of the story.
6. Children need a range of reading materials. Any easy book can help them relax with reading. A difficult book can be read to your child. Both are important in developing their reading and writing skills.
7. If your child misreads a word without impacting on the meaning, say nothing. If they say a word which changes the meaning or if they are stuck, you can help in the following ways:
 - Pointing to a picture if it is relevant.
 - Asking a question to remind them of the context e.g. Where did they say they were going?
 - Re-reading the sentence up to the unknown word to remind them of the context.
 - Saying or pointing to the first letter of the word.
 - Telling your child the word to avoid losing the momentum.
 - If the word can be read easily by sounding out the letters, help them to do this.

After reading

Talking about the book at the end will help your child in their enjoyment and their understanding (comprehension) of the book.

You might find the following questions helpful in your discussion:

- Did you enjoy that book? Why? Why not?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- Which part did you like the best? Why?
- Was there any part you didn't like? Why?
- Would you choose this book/story again?
- What happened in the story?
- Does this remind you of anything you have read before?
- Do you think the book was funny?
- Did you spot any interesting words or expressions?
- How does the writer make it interesting?
- Why are some words written in bold print/italics?
- How do the main characters feel?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why?

Which books are best?

- Books your child enjoys
- Books suggested by your child's teacher
- Books your child chooses from a library or bookshop
- It is fine to re-read favourite books.

Other reading materials your child might find interesting

- Comics
- Magazines
- Travel brochures
- Instructions or recipes
- Information books
- Manuals
- Newspapers including match reports
- Audio books/CDs
- Poetry