



KS1

Reading at Home

As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

Top Ten Tips

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions, away from the TV and the demands of making tea. Don't do it when either you or your child are tired or frustrated.

2. Regular practice

Regular, short periods of quality reading are better than a long session that only happens occasionally. 'Little and often' is best.

3. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child, be supportive and positive, and boost your child's confidence with praise for even the smallest achievement. Try not to pressurise a reluctant child, and if they lose interest, then do something else.

4. Talk about the book

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read.

Always talk to your child about the book. Talk about the cover, the title, and what the book might be about. Talk about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, and their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

Check out the school website, which has lots of information about the types of questions to ask.

5. Pause, Prompt, Praise

On finding an unknown word,

Pause to give your child time to work out the word.

Prompt – go back to the beginning of the sentence, or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence. Look for a clue in the picture or words. Look at the first letter and think about what the words could be. Ask 'Does this make sense?' Try to sound out the word. Be aware of tricky words that can't be sounded out. If necessary tell your child the word, especially if it is a Proper Name.

Praise your child for trying, regardless of mistakes.

6. Keep the flow

The first time your child reads a sentence or page, it may sound stilted and lacking in expression as they focus on the words. To help with meaning, flow and confidence, it's sometimes good for your child to re-read a section, or you could read it yourself with expression – after lots of praise, of course!

7. Success is the key

Try to avoid giving your child a book that is too difficult. Struggling with a book with many unknown words means that flow is lost, text cannot be

understood and children can easily become reluctant readers. Use the 1 in 10 rule – if they are misreading more than 1 in 10 words, then the book may be too challenging for them. Remember that nothing succeeds like success!

8. Variety is important

Children need to experience a variety of reading materials. Read books about hobbies or interests, try poetry, newspapers, recipes and games instructions. Point out street signs, shop names, food packaging, menus, and the internet. All can be part of the process of learning to read with enjoyment.

9. Communicate

Remember to use your child's home school diary to communicate reading successes and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

10. It's still good to share

Don't give up on sharing that bedtime story or information book. It's just as important now to enjoy reading these books together, as well as those that come home from school, to help develop your child's vocabulary, their understanding of stories and to encourage a love of reading.