

Tips to Help with Reading

As a parent you are probably helping your child with reading much more than you may realise. If your home contains books, magazines and catalogues and your child sees you reading, if you read to your child and talk together about stories and if you use printed materials to find things out, then your child already has a head start in this area.

1. Remember that talking about reading is very important, so if your child is sometimes reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book will also help develop reading skills.
2. Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning rather than absolute accuracy
3. Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable, in a quiet space with the television turned off.
4. Don't make reading competitive - how many books have they got through in a week or comparing progress with friends
5. Talk about the cover and read the title before rushing the child into the text, asking questions such as: what do you think it will be about; what sort of book is it; have you read this one before?
6. Don't correct too quickly. If your child makes an error suggest having another go, searching the pictures for a clue, sounding out or reading on before you 'tell' the problem word.



7. If your child is really struggling and no strategies are helping them, take over the reading yourself and let the teacher know.
8. As your child progresses, talk about authors, plots, characters or what information has been learnt.
9. If your child reads silently ask him or her to retell the part that has been read and encourage 'pointing out' relevant sections in the text.
10. Attend information sessions run by the school and look at guidance that is sent home or that can be accessed on line
Good websites are:
National Literacy Trust
www.literacytrust.org.uk
- Reading is Fundamental
www.rif.org.uk
11. Join your local library together and use it regularly. Watch out for storytelling events, summer reads and reviews of new titles.
12. Read with and to your child regularly.