

Supporting your child's reading at home

*Children need to learn to read before they can read to learn.
If we do not teach children to read, we deny them the ability to learn.*

There are two aspects to reading, word recognition and language comprehension. Once a child can work out the words they can then begin to sort out the message within the words (comprehension).

Younger Readers

How can you help your child when they are beginning to learn to read?

Please support us by listening to your child read everyday and make a comment in their yellow contact book.

When they come across a word they do not know?

- Encourage your child to sound out the word into the individual sounds i.e. c-a-t
- Split the word up into smaller chunks ie. ad-ven-ture
- Use the pictures for support
- Tell them the word - some words cannot be sounded out and are what we call high frequency words. These words the children just need to learn to read.

To check their understanding

It is important that the children learn to understand what they are reading rather than just reading the words.

- Some books have questions to ask your child. Encourage the children to answer these questions and explain their answers.
- Make up your own questions - how do the characters feel? How would your child feel if it had happened to them?
- When you come across new vocabulary ask your child to explain what the word/phrase means.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about what they have read.

Home activities

- Go on sound/word hunts around the house or in your local environment and encourage your child to find and correctly say the sound/words that they have found.
- Play games at home with words - lotto, snap
- Place words around the house for your child to find and then read.
- Be a role model - even if you are not a keen reader model to your child that you are!
- Be passionate about reading and make a special time during the day to share stories together.

Older readers

Older children have probably mastered basic reading skills and can read independently for pleasure. However, parental involvement is still so important if children are to realise their full potential as readers.

How can you help your child when they have learnt to read?

Developing their skills

- Ensure your child reads aloud to you on a regular basis. You may not need to sit alongside them and follow the words but they will benefit from having discussion with you about the book. It is also a time to develop the skill of engaging their listener through tone, pace and emphasis.
- Continue to read aloud to your child. This is a good opportunity for your child to hear how text should be read to improve their own fluency. You can also pick books which will challenge your child's vocabulary and thinking skills.
- Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. This is a good way for your child to practise their reading skills for a real purpose.
- Encourage your child to read lots of different types of text. Not all children enjoy novels. Humour is often a good way to get children to pick up a book. Remember text comes in different forms; comics, catalogues, menus, road signs, food labels. Support your child reading for a purpose i.e. read a recipe to bake a cake, read instructions to make a model.

Encouraging reluctant readers

- Use their interests and hobbies as a starting point. Read a short section of information text aloud or simply bring home more information on the same subject.
- Leave different sorts of reading materials around your house
- Take your child to the library or local book shop regularly and explore the children's section together.
- Present reading as an activity with a purpose e.g. instructions to reach a destination or making a paper aeroplane, a recipe or following a treasure hunt.
- Play games that involve reading cards or spaces on a board game.
- Most importantly show them how you enjoy reading.

