



The teaching of reading - a guide for parents.

Children learn a great deal from other people. As parents and carers you have a powerful influence on not only your child's early learning but the learning that takes place throughout their primary school years.

Our literacy booklet aims to provide you with guidance as to how you can support your child at home with aspects of reading and spelling.



Reading



As parents you play a very important part in helping your child to read. Encouraging children to develop a love of books and an interest in written language helps their literacy now and makes a difference to their whole future.

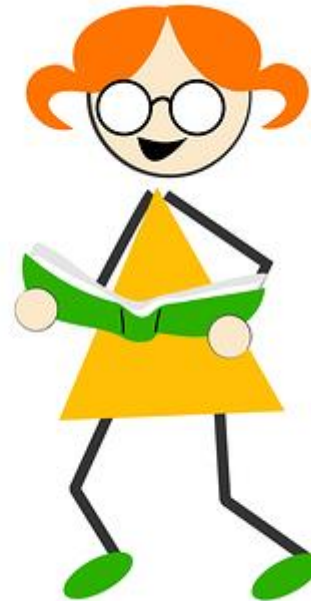
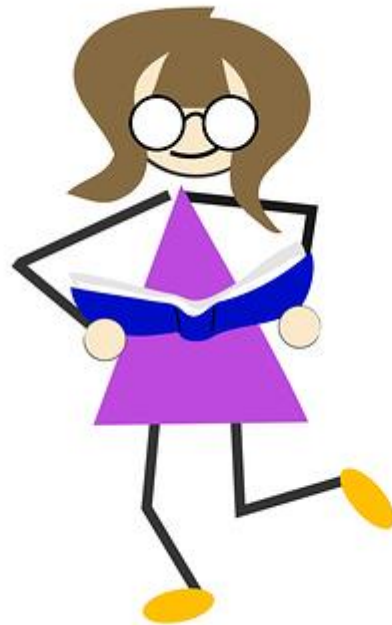
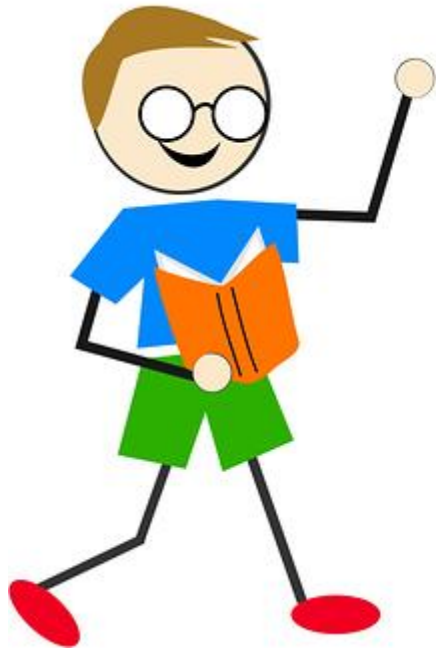
The most important thing is that reading should be a positive, enjoyable experience for both the adult and child, not a chore. Studies show that reading a variety of literature independently by age 15 is the biggest indicator of future success.

The following pages of this booklet explain how you can help at home at three different stages of reading: emergent, developing and independent. It is important to note that children develop at different rates and the stages are not specific to year groups in school. There is also some overlap in skills between all three stages.

Top Ten Tips for all stages of reading:

1. Give lots of praise and encouragement.
2. Lots of discussion about what is being read improves comprehension skills.
3. Reading aloud to children of all ages, even when they become fluent readers develops reading and writing skills.
4. Find a comfortable and quiet place to read and share books.
5. Stop when children are tired.
6. Read at all times of the day, not just at bedtime.
7. A range of reading material is important; fiction, non fiction and poetry.
8. Join the local library.
9. All adults are good reading role models.
10. Reading and rereading of old favourites or a simpler text every now and again develops many skills, repetition aids learning.

The stages of reading:



Emergent Reading Stage



This is the first stage of learning to read, it is about recognising what text and print is all about and how books work.

Important things for children at this stage are handling books correctly, turning pages, following print left to right and developing an awareness that print is all around them, for example recognising familiar signs, words from favourite television programmes, favourite packets at the supermarket.

Top Tips for Home

- Nursery rhymes are incredibly important at this stage with lots of repetition.
- Share fiction and nonfiction together on a regular basis, daily if possible.
- Use a book as a starting point for role play, creative activities, there may also be DVDs, CDs, story tapes or videos linked to the book.
- Spot familiar words around them in the environment.
- Have their name in lots of places.
- Repetition of favourite stories develops many skills.

Questions to Ask.....

- When looking at the front cover - What might the book be about?
- Where are the words?
- Who or what might be inside the book?
- Why did you choose this book?
- When looking at the pictures, can you find the.....in the picture, play 'I spy' with the picture.
- What do you think might happen next?
- With a known familiar story, complete the rhyme or repetition that is in the story for example with The Three Little Pigs, I'll huff and I'll.....

Developing Reading Stage



At this stage children are starting to recognise words and use their phonic skills to read more fluently and gain confidence when reading books.

Your child should be encouraged to use the phonic reading strategy (sounding out and blending the sounds) as the main reading strategy. However there will be some words in the texts that are not easy to sound out, these are sight vocabulary words and will be learned, practised and repeated in a variety of ways. Having these words displayed separately as flash cards can assist the child in recognising these as sight vocabulary.

At this stage it is important that children read and share a variety of books not just those from the reading schemes used at school. The more they experience different texts the better the reader and writer they will become.

In reception and KS1

Throughout the course of the week at school there will be some opportunities for the children to read individually, but reading will mostly take place in guided groups where the skills of reading are specifically taught. Children are divided into ability-matched groups and one or two groups will read with an adult, usually the teacher and a teaching assistant.

KS2

Throughout the course of the week at school there will be many opportunities for the children to read individually to the class and the teacher during our whole class guided reading sessions. Reading aloud also fits into many other subjects and so opportunities arise throughout the day.

Top Tips for Home

- When reading and sharing stories use a variety of voices to sustain their interest and model using expression to bring stories to life.
- Reading challenging texts to your child that may be too complex for them to read alone gives them greater ideas to use in their writing and helps develop imagination.
- Read traditional tales, this helps them to understand how stories work.
- Learn songs and rhymes, this helps prepare children for patterns in language and aids language development.

- With their reading book from school, sound out words, if they hesitate, wait. Given time they will often show they can work out the words successfully.
- Provide the word if your child is getting anxious.
- Don't correct every mistake, as children read on they will often self correct when they realise it doesn't make sense.
- Encourage them to take more notice of punctuation, pause at full stops and commas, change tone of voice for speech.
- It is valuable for your child to see you enjoying a book/newspaper, this encourages them at this stage to see the purpose for reading and encourages them to become a reader.

Questions to Ask.....

- When looking at the front cover - What might the book be about? To activate prior knowledge, if the front cover picture was an owl, what do we know about owls?
- What is the book's title, what does this tell us about what we will find in the book?
- Stop at various points, what has happened so far?
- Have you enjoyed the book? Why?
- What do you think will happen next, why do you think this?
- How do you think the story will end?
- With new or unfamiliar words explain what these mean or look them up together in a dictionary.
- What do the characters look like? How do you know?
- What are the personalities of the characters like? How do you know?
- Where do you think the story is set?
- Can you describe the setting?
- Would you like to visit this place, why?

With Non-Fiction Books:

- Looking at the contents page, where will I find information about...?
- How could we use the index to find something out?
- Who do you think would find the book useful/interesting?
- How is the information arranged on the page?
- What was the most interesting fact you learned?

Independent Reading Stage



At this stage your child is able to read more confidently, independently and fluently.

Even though your children may spend more time reading quietly to themselves, parents still have an important role in helping them to develop reading skills. It is important that your child has the opportunity to discuss what they have read to demonstrate their understanding and enable them to think more carefully and deeply about the text. Children should also be encouraged to read aloud to continue to develop their fluency, accuracy and tone.

Research has shown that reading aloud to children of all ages helps them to develop their writing skills. It develops knowledge of language and story structure, provides them with a greater range of ideas to use in their own writing and gives them access to texts that may be too complex for them to read alone.

KS1

Throughout the course of the week at school there will be opportunities for the children to read individually, but reading will also take place in guided groups where the skills of reading are specifically

taught. Children are divided into ability-matched groups and one or two groups will read with an adult, usually the teacher and a teaching assistant.

KS2

Throughout the course of the week at school there will be many opportunities in a variety of lessons for the children to read individually, this will often include reading aloud to the class.

Top Tips for Home

- Continue to listen to your child read aloud.
- Share a book and read it aloud together, modelling expression and fluency.
- Read a section each in the book especially if your child wants to tackle a more difficult text.
- Recap any words that your child found difficult, you could encourage them to use a dictionary to check meanings.
- Ask questions whilst reading or after they have read the text independently, to develop comprehension skills.
- Please use your judgement when choosing questions, adapt them when discussing the texts.
- Encourage your child to read a range of texts regularly.

Questions to Ask.....

Fiction Books-

Questions about characters

- What does look like? Use parts of the story to explain how you know this.
- What sort of things does ... get up to?
- Why do you think that behaves in the way that he/she does?
- What have you learned about? Where did you get this from?
- Would you like to have as a friend? Why/why not?
- How did feel at the beginning/middle/end of the story? How do you know this?
- Do you feel that you are in any way similar to? In what way?
- Do you think that changed in any way during the story? How and why did these changes happen?
- Why do you think said "....."?

Questions about settings

- Where do the main events take place?
- What effect does the setting have on the story?
- When do the main events take place?
- Does the timing of these events have an effect on the story?
- Why do you think the author chose the settings that he/she has?
- Do you think that the settings are well described? Why?
- Can you select some good description and say why you think it is so effective?

General questions

- Does what you have read in your book today make you want to carry on reading?

Why/why not?

- What main events have taken place in your book?
- What caused these events to happen?
- What was the result of these events?
- What do you think may happen next and why?
- What part of the story do you think is the funniest/saddest/most interesting?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Why do you think the book is called?
- Did anything in the book make you think about something that once happened to you?
- Do you think that the pictures help you to understand the book better?
- Do the pictures make the book more enjoyable? How?
- What questions would you like to ask the author?
- Would you recommend this book to other children?
- Would it appeal to all children? What sort of children do you think would like it?

Non-Fiction Books

- What have you learnt from your reading today?
- Who do you think would find this book most interesting and useful?
- How is the information arranged on each page?
- How does the way the information is set out help you to understand it?
- Here it says (point to the contents page) ... is on page What do you think that page will be about?
- How would you use the index to find something out?
- Could you suggest any ways in which your book could be improved?

Poetry

- Can you find out who wrote this poem and when it was written?
- What pictures did it make you think of as you read the poem?
- What is the poem about?
- What is the poet trying to do or say?
- What is it about the poem that you liked?
- How do you think the poet is feeling about what they are writing about?
- What 'poetic features' can you identify? (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration etc)
- Did the poem remind you of anything else that you have read?
- Does the shape the poem makes on the page, or the sounds it makes when you read it, add to the message?

Recommended Reads and Authors - RECEPTION AND KEY STAGE 1

<p>Spot books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dear Zoo • Mog books • Percy the Park Keeper • Jasper's Beanstalk • Billy's Beetle • Each Peach Pear Plum • Ladybird, Ladybird • Martin Waddell books, e.g. Owl Babies, Can't You Sleep Little Bear • Where the wild things are • The Hungry Caterpillar • Not Now Bernard • The Gruffalo • We're going on a Bear Hunt • Rose's walk 	<p>The Minpins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantastic Mr Fox • James and the Giant Peach • The Magic Finger • The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark - Jill Tomlinson • Horrid Henry series • Josie Smith stories - Magdalen Nabb • The Tiger who Came to Tea • The Mousehole Cat • The Enormous Crocodile • The Giraffe, The Pelly and Me 	<p>George's Marvellous Medicine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jolly Postman • Shirley Hughes books • Handa's Surprise • The Elephant and the Bad Baby • Five Minutes Peace • Winnie the Witch • Angry Arthur • On the Way Home • The Boy and the Whale • A Piece of Cake - Jill Murphy • Dark, Dark Tale - Ruth Brown • Dogger • Katie Morag stories • Amazing Grace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairy Maclary • Good Night Owl - Pat Hutchins • Elmer stories • I'm Coming to Get You • The Worst Witch • The Giant Jam Sandwich • Brown bear, brown bear - What do you see? Eric Carle • Polar bear, polar bear - What do you see? Eric Carle • Where's my potty? - Tony Ross • Peace at Last • Mr Magnolia • Six Dinner Sid • Rainbow Fish
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Recommended Reads and Authors - KEY STAGE 2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat Stanley • The BFG - Roald Dahl • Danny the Champion of the World - Dahl • Boy/Solo - Dahl • Quick let's get out of here - Michael Rosen • Eric the Viking - Terry Jones • The Indian in the cupboard & film • The Iron Man - Ted Hughes • Hodgeheg - Dick King Smith • Sheep Pig - Dick King Smith • The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe • The shrinking of treehorn - Florence Parry Heide • Storm - Kevin Crossley-Holland • Charlotte's Web - EB White • Stig of the dump - Clive King Philip Ardagh books • Paul Jennings stories • Morris Gleitzman stories • Anthony Horowitz stories • Lemony Snickett stories • Horrible Histories/Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The true story of 3 little pigs - John Scieszka and Lane Smith • Bill's new frock - Anne Fine • Goodnight Mr Tom & film version • Friend or Foe - Michael Murpurgo & film version • Billy The Kid - Michael Morpurgo • The secret - Ruth Thomas • Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens • The Fib and other stories - George Layton • The Hobbit - Tolkein • The Snow Spider - Jenny Nimmo • The Julian Stories - Ann Cameron • The Butterfly Lion - Michael Murpurgo • The Dancing Bear - Michael Murpurgo • Kensuke's Kingdom - Michael Murpurgo • Mokee Joe • Alpha Force series • Secret Seven • Chillers • Fingers on the back of the neck • Banana books • Midnight Library • Darren Shan Vampire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why The Whales Came- Michael Murpurgo • Blabber Mouth - Morris Gleitzman • Dear Mr Henshaw - Beverly Cleary • Wolf Brother - Michelle Paver • The Wolves of Willoughby Chase - Joan Aiken • Journey to the Hidden Sea - Iva Ibbotson • Clockwork - Philip Pullman • The Scarecrow and his Servant - Philip Pullman • The Firework Maker's Daughter - Philip Pullman • Harry Potter series - J.K. Rowling • Charmed Life - Dianne Wynne Jones • Grandpa - John Burningham • John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat • Anthony Browne picture books • The Midnight Fox - Betsy Byars • The 18th Emergency - Betsy Byars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battle of Bubble and Squeak -Phillipa Pearce • Tom's Midnight Garden - Phillipa Pearce • Holes - Louis Sachar • Skellig - David Almond • Captain Underpants • The stinky cheeseman and other fairly stupid tales • Horrid Henry series • Nelly the monster sitter • Suddenly - Preston Pig • The three little wolves and the big bad pig • True story of the three little pigs • Star Biker • Mr Majeika - Humphrey Carpenter • How to train your dragon • Revolting rhymes • Jeremy Strong books • The Edge Chronicles • Hatchet - Gary Paulsen • Artemis Fowl - Eoin Colger • The Demon Headmaster - Gillian Cross • Goosebump series • Harry Potter • Count Karlstein - Philip Pullman series
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