

What else can you do to help?

- 1 Join a Library
- 2 Encourage reading to younger brothers and sisters
- 3 Encourage reading and following instructions, games, recipes, etc.
- 4 Encourage children to make up riddles, stories and poems
- 5 Find interesting articles and photographs in newspapers and discuss them
- 6 Read and write postcards, letters, lists, messages
- 7 Read books that have been made into films and encourage discussions about the differences between them
- 8 Study books by the same author and discuss any common themes

The last word!

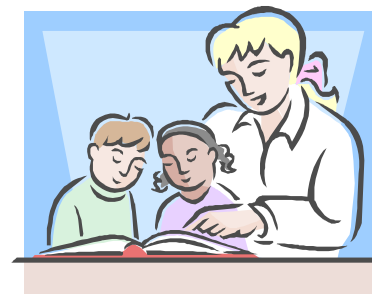
Reading is a continuous process and children will develop in their own time. If you are anxious about your child's progress, share your concerns with the class teacher rather than with your child.

Be positive about your child's reading. Praise him or her when he or she does well and encourage your child when it is a harder book, so that he or she always feels that reading has been a successful activity.

The children need their reading book in school every day, so please ensure they are kept in their Book Bags in a safe place at home, so that your child can find them easily in the mornings.

When you share books with your child, please date and sign your child's Home/School Link book so that the teacher can praise your child for all the hard work you are doing at home!

Thank you for supporting your child's reading. Please let us know of any ideas you have that we can share with other parents.



Reading Guide for Parents

Enjoying reading with your child

Reading goes beyond simply recognising and deciphering words. It is about understanding concepts and opening up horizons. As young children learn a skill for the first time, they need to read every day. Because teachers read and discuss books with children in small groups, rather than focusing on hearing individual children read, it is crucial that children have the opportunity to read to someone at home every day. We would like you to enjoy reading with your child and hope that our ideas will help to make your experiences pleasurable.

Getting in the mood

To help stimulate your child's interest in the story:

- § Choose a time when you and your child are relaxed and not tired - five precious moments are better than twenty pressurised ones!
- § Sit down somewhere comfortable and quiet where there are not too many distractions.
- § Remember it is the quality of the experience that is important, rather than what is read.
- § Have a brief chat about the cover of the book, the title, perhaps the author and the illustrator

FOUNDATION & KEY STAGE 1 READING GUIDANCE

Supporting your child as he or she reads

Let your child choose what he/she wants to read. Children have favourites and will want to hear the same story over and over again. This is a good thing to do and will promote confidence.

If the book is difficult for the child to read alone, read the words together and read it to the child so that you both enjoy the story. If a child gets stuck on a word, encourage them to have a go, either by trying to sound it out, or by having another go at the sentence to see if they can think of a word that would fit. If they are still stuck, say the word yourself so you can both follow the story.

It helps younger readers if you read the story to them and are willing to accept when they offer a word that is not accurate but keeps the meaning of the text (e.g. 'dad' for father or 'bags' for suitcases). Always remember: the meaning matters most.

Talking about the story

Sometimes it can be helpful to discuss the story with your child, but try to avoid a 'test' with the right answers. Some ideas you might like to try are:

- § Tell the story from the illustrations in the book
- § Re-tell the story in their own words
- § Discuss events in your own lives, similar to the ones shared in the book
- § Think about the reason people acted the way they did, or what they must have been thinking or feeling, "Why do you think he said that?" "What would have happened if?"
- § Ask children why they like the book and try to find similar books to read

What else can you do to help?

1. Try to read in front of your child so they can see that you enjoy reading
2. Read to your child as often as you can.



3. Be happy to return to old favourites and try not to influence your child's choice of books too much.
4. Illustrations are an important part of the story and should be enjoyed as much as the text itself.
5. Read as many different things as possible: magazines and comics, notes to one another, birthday cards, street signs, door numbers, supermarket signs, food labels, newspapers, posters, recipe books, information books, telephone directory.
6. Join the library.
7. Borrow a Story Sack from school!
8. Keep CDs of stories to play in the car on long journeys.
9. Leave the book handy for private reading to teddy!

Remember, the more your child reads, the better!

KEY STAGE 2 READING GUIDANCE

Enjoy Reading

Older children need to discuss what they have read and form opinions. We would like you to continue enjoying the reading experience with your child. Here are some ideas that may help:

- § Discuss what they are reading – what has happened since you last read together?
- § Continue to read to your child if he/she enjoys it
- § When listening to your child read, remember to give lots of praise and encouragement
- § If your child can read fluently, try reading with expression – experiment with different voices, etc.
- § Discuss reasons for the way the characters reacted
- § Express preferences about books and explain why they like them
- § Talk about the author's choice of words – what effect does it have? What words could he/she have used instead? How would that alter the meaning?

Remember: Year 3/4 children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes every day. Year 5/6 children are expected to read for at least 20 minutes every day.