

Helping your child learn at home

Juniors



Information about reading in school
Questions to support your child's reading
Activities to encourage talk through texts
Helpful websites and places to visit

Reading at School

How is reading supported within school?

In school, your child takes part in weekly Guided Reading sessions. This is where they read a book with a small group and an adult, giving them the opportunity to practise reading to others and to discuss texts.

The adult guides the children through different texts over the term, asking open questions that encourage the children to think deeply about what they have read.

The class teacher also reads to the children as often as possible. Being read to is a fantastic experience for children of any age as it models expression, use of punctuation, introduces new words and most important of all, makes reading enjoyable!

Reading at Home

Supporting reading at home:

1. Find a place to sit together that suits you both.
2. Try to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes a day and once over the weekend. Approach it as a pleasurable experience.
3. Find some time to talk about the book as well as reading it.
Start with the title, look at the cover and briefly chat about what you might find inside.
At the bottom of each page, encourage your child to predict what might happen next.
If your child gets stuck, ask what word would fit best, asking them to sound it out (if appropriate), or simply supply the word yourself.
4. Read to your child. You can help your child to understand particular parts of the story.
5. Encourage your child to retell the story you have just shared.
This will give you an idea of how much they have understood.
6. Spend some time discussing the story together.
Did you enjoy the story?
If you could change the ending, what will happen?
7. Be flexible. Sometimes you may wish to read more, and sometimes less. Sometimes your child may not even like the book. If this happens try and read a little, but if they still don't like it, then find something else.
8. Give your child lots of opportunities to read in daily life; shopping lists, bus timetables, recipes and letters from family members.

Reading with your child

Some questions to ask your child when reading together

Who is the author and who is the illustrator?

What do you think will happen next?

Describe the main character in your book.

What problems will your character have?

How do you think that character feels?

How would you feel if you were them?

Can you find a word or phrase that shows how the character is feeling?

Can you find a word or phrase that describes the setting?

Can you say how the book will end?

Can you think of another way for the book to start?

Can you retell the story in your own words?

Did you enjoy the book?

How could the book be improved?

Encourage your child to use the text as evidence to justify/prove their ideas.

Reading activities

Some suggested reading related activities (KS2)

- Create a piece of art or drawing based on what has happened.
- Write a comic strip, play script or picture version of the story.
- Suggest and create an alternate version of the story, or a sequel.
- Use an iPad or camera to make a film trailer for the book.
- Write a book review.
- Write a letter to the author.
- Write a poem about a setting.
- Create a news report on a key event.
- Create a new character for the book.
- Find phrases that have unusual punctuation.
- Use a dictionary to research any new vocabulary and keep it recorded in a 'personal dictionary'.

Suggested websites for further ideas:

Oxford Owl: <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/fun-ideas>

Jumpstart: <http://www.jumpstart.com/parents/activities/reading-activities>

Reading Rockets: <http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>

7 Ways to Encourage a love of reading (An American website but it has some great ideas for Reading for Pleasure at home):

<http://www.parents.com/fun/activities/indoor/encourage-a-love-of-reading/>