

Top Tips for Supporting Your Child with Their Reading

1. Read to your child

Children love being read to and it is an important part of learning to read, the more stories or information they are exposed to, the better they become at reading - and they are never too old to listen to a story – even in year 6!

2. Talk to your child (a lot)

The more conversations a child has, the more an adult speaks to them, the more words they learn and this makes reading, especially understanding books, much easier. Great readers have great vocabularies.

3. Ask them tell you a “story”

Any story – an easy way to do this is to start with ‘Tell me a story about your day’ then encourage them to be imaginative about what happened.

4. Listen to your child read

The more often a child reads at home (we encourage a minimum of 3 times per week) the better they will become as readers and this is a very important skill for them to have in life. Sadly we do not have enough time in school to practise as often as a child needs so it’s vital they read at home. There are lots of studies that show that this kind of repeated reading out loud makes pupils much better readers. Although they will like to read alone the older they get, it’s still important that they read aloud to you as well.

5. Encourage them to read...

Encourage them to read signs, labels, shopping lists, magazines, sports reports, the TV guide etc. It doesn’t have to be a school reading book!

6. Ask questions.

When your child reads, ask them to retell the story or information. If it’s a story, ask who it was about and what happened. If it’s an informational text, have your child explain what it was about and how it worked, or what its parts were. Reading involves not just sounding out words, but thinking about and remembering ideas and events. Improving reading comprehension skills early will prepare your child for success when they start reading more difficult texts.

7. Make reading a regular activity in your home.

Make reading a part of your daily life, and children will learn to love it. Join the local library so they have access to different books – we have lots in school but the local libraries have many more. Set aside some time when everyone turns off their screens and does nothing but read. If they see you enjoying reading yourself, it will encourage them to foster a love for books too.

8. Be positive.

Instead of telling them they’ve said the wrong word, ask them to have another go, look carefully at the word or say ‘lets look at it together.’

9. Don’t rush them...

Don’t rush them into choosing books which are too hard for them. Children learn at different speeds and giving them a book which is too hard can destroy their confidence. As long as they are having a chance to read they will gain confidence quickly and want to read more.

10. Make it fun.

Play word games e.g. Bingo! with tricky words from the book before they start. Introduce new words to them or give them a word quiz on car journeys. Try reading upside down or taking it in turns to read different characters. Create videos of them summarising their books or reading their books as if they are TV presenters for younger children.