

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR CHILD'S READING

WHAT IS READING?

Making reading from text

Decoding print

HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

BE A GREAT ROLE MODEL

- Let them catch you reading
- Share your favourite books/reading material.
- Find some time in the week to read yourself.
- Let your children see that you get pleasure from reading.
- Show them the value of being able to read.

MAKE THE EXPERIENCE PLEASURABLE

- Find a comfy place.
- Give plenty of time.
- Avoid interruptions (no TV; siblings (unless purposeful choice); cooking dinner.
- Keep the time positive.
- Stay clear of 'competition' and comparisons with the ability of others.

PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF READING MATERIAL

A school reading book is only one part of a child's reading repertoire.

- Books (picture books; short stories; chapter books); magazines; comics; annuals.
- Information books; brochures; catalogues; flyers; newspapers; guide books.
- Websites; take-away menus; instructions.
- Visit the library and/or bookshop.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT 'GOOD' BOOKS FOR MY CHILD?

- Word of mouth – children, their friends, other parents, friends and family.
- Teaching Staff.
- Bookshops.
- Local libraries.
- Online – a wealth of recommendations and reviews.

BUT MY CHILD CAN READ. HOW CAN I HELP THEM DEVELOP?

- Provide the texts.
- Provide the time.
- Provide the atmosphere.
- Provide the role model.
- Discuss what they are choosing to read.
- Discuss what they are reading.
- Ask questions about the text.

BUT MY CHILD STRUGGLES WITH READING. HOW CAN I HELP?

- Make your reading time a regular activity at a specific time each day. Children love structure and will look forward to the closeness and bonding this time brings.
- Vary how you structure your reading time together. Don't always expect your child to read to you. Read to them sometimes. Take turns reading. Read out loud together.
- Use PAUSE, PROMPT, REMINDER.
PAUSE when your child comes to a word they don't know. Don't jump in straight away by telling them the word or getting them to sound it out. Let them think.
PROMPT your child if they haven't answered in about 10-20 seconds. Only sound out the word if it can be effectively sounded out. If your child doesn't get the word after a couple of prompts or an attempt at sounding out, tell them the word straight away. You want to avoid the feeling of failure, plus make sure they get on with the book before they forget what the story is about.
PRAISE your child for their efforts.
- Not every single word has to be right. Refrain from picking upon every error as this could make your child fearful of making

mistakes and contribute to their negative attitude towards reading and make their progress even slower.

If your child is gaining the overall meaning from the story or text, then they are achieving the major goal of reading – to decipher words and receive a message.

- Talk, talk, talk..... Ask your child to retell their favourite part of the book in their own words. Talk about what they would do if they were a person from the book. Talk about the way the characters in the book felt and why they felt like that. Talk about interesting words from the book and what they mean. This will help increase your child's level of comprehension.
- Be seen to be a reader. It's surprising how many children don't see their parents reading a book. A newspaper yes – but not a book! Children are the greatest mimics in the world, and they especially love to copy their Mum or Dad. Sit down and read your own separate books at the same time. Make it obvious that reading is something you value.
- Don't cover up the pictures. Using pictures is one of the ways children gather information to support their use of sound, letter and word skills. Pictures support the meaning of a story and provide a context to help children solve unknown words. Picture story books have pictures for a reason. Many times the text doesn't make sense without the pictures and asking your child to read it without looking at the pictures will often feel like trickery to them.
- Last but not least – make reading fun! The last thing it needs to be is a chore. You can't blame any child for being unwilling if something is hard AND a bore. Find books about topics your child is interested in. Read craft books and make things. Get a cookbook out and follow a recipe. Get out the words to favourite songs.

CONCLUSION

MAKE YOUR READING TIME TOGETHER REGULAR, STRESS FREE AND FUN. YOUR CHILD WILL BENEFIT AND SO MIGHT YOU!

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