



Reading at home with your child



1. Find a place to sit together that suits you both – let your child choose. If they want to build a reading den, build a reading den. If they want to sit in the kitchen, sit in the kitchen. If your child wants to read to their Nan on the phone, call Nan! Your child will choose a reading environment that suits and engages them.

2. Model good practise, turn the TV off, move the tablet out of sight.

3. Try to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes a day and once over the weekend. Encourage it as a pleasurable experience. *“I can’t wait to find out what happens in your book!”* *“If we read your book, we’ll get to use that silly voice for the Granny again!”*



4. Reading is not only about ‘reading to...’, it’s also about ‘reading with...’. 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. What happened in the story? Does this remind them of anything in their lives or anything they have read before? Did they think the book was funny? Did they spot any interesting words and phrases? Did they enjoy the book? Why?

5. Read to your child. If there’s a sentence with tricky punctuation or new intonation, model how to read it. Model using expression and pace. Model sounding out a word. Get things wrong to show that it’s ok.

6. Do not say the book is ‘too easy’ or ‘too hard’. Children need a range of reading materials. Any ‘easy’ book helps them to relax with reading and develop a love of reading for pleasure. A difficult book can be a challenge or something for you to read to your child. Both are important.

7. If your child misreads a word without changing the meaning, e.g. ‘Dad’ for ‘Father’, accept it. If they hesitate, repeat a word or leave one out, say nothing provided the meaning is not lost. If they say a word which does change the meaning, or they are simply stuck, you can help them by or if your child gets stuck you can support them by:

a. Pointing to the picture if it is relevant



b. Asking a question to remind them of the context, e.g. ‘Where did they say they were going?’

c. Re-reading the sentence up to the unknown word to remind them of the context

d. Saying or pointing to the first letter of the word



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e. Telling your child the word to avoid losing momentum and to keep their confidence up

f. If the word can be read easily by sounding out the letters, encourage them or help them to do this

After Reading

Talking about the book with your child at the end will help your child in their enjoyment and understanding of the book.

What was your favourite part? What might happen next? Which character do you like the best and why? What would you do if the character went to your school?

Ask your child to summarise the story, act out what happened, perform their favourite part. Laugh about the book later in the day or over mealtimes, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea with us today!'



Use the text as a stimulus for another activity. After reading a book, go on your own bear hunt around the house! Paint your own Rainbow Fish! Have a family game of Quidditch!

My child won't read, no matter what I do. How can I help?

- Don't worry about the 'how' and 'what' of reading too much. Reading books are great but so are comics, leaflets, recipes, instructions, even the subtitles on the TV! Be on the lookout for reading, wherever you can find it!
- Make books a part of your family! Discuss books over video calls with family members, recommend titles to each other, lend books and take family trips to the library.
- Read to your child as much as possible.
- Show them that reading is more than a school subject – it is a life skill. Model reading road signs on your way to swimming or Brownies, model reading the shopping list (especially all the yummy treats), model reading the instructions of a new game. Emphasise to your child that they need to be able to read in order to do all of these fun things!



- Don't make an issue out of it, "Ok, we won't read tonight but your teacher might ask you to do more at school tomorrow"
- Talk to your child's class teacher if this becomes a regular problem, working together will help.

- Regularly check the school newsletter and website for dates of upcoming workshops or library evenings that you or your child could attend.