

Taking an active interest in your child's learning is one of the best ways you can help your child to do better in school and in life. Learning is not just about what happens in school. Children are learning all the time through what they see, hear and do.

A little reading goes a long way!

A good 10 minutes is much better than a difficult half hour!

Strategies and Reading Behaviours

In school children are taught a range of strategies they can use to help them work out unknown words.

For example:

- Phonics! If they can sound the word out using the phonics they know then encourage this as the first strategy
- Using the picture as a clue (this is not cheating!)
- Using picture clues along with the initial letter in the word
- Predicting what the word could be from the context it is in (by reading the rest of the sentence first.)

As children's reading skills develop they adopt a range of good reading behaviours.

These include:

- Reading from left to right and matches each spoken word to a written one
- Recognises errors

- Re-reading to correct and re-reading to check
- Making meaningful but not always accurate guesses
- Reading with expression

As children progress further they:

- Use punctuation
- Follow print with their eyes
- Search for information in the print
- Read more fluently
- Use letter clusters to attempt new words

Reading with your child

Book Introduction: Spend time introducing the book (see Questions to help you get more from your child's reading)

Strategy Check: Ask your child "What can we do if we get stuck on a word?" Listing the strategies refreshes your child's memory and gives them the confidence to tackle a new word.

Independent reading: During this time try to remind your child of strategies rather than giving unknown words. Alternate the strategies you suggest rather than giving the same strategy prompt e.g. sound it out.

Returning to text for questioning: (See Questions to help you get more from your child's reading) This is an important part of the reading session as it enables you to see if they have understood what they have read. More confident readers will also be able to return to the text to find out answers to questions.

Instant ideas for improving reading at any age.

- Spend 10 minutes a day reading together. Make it fun – choose books, magazines, brochures, catalogues, menus, recipes, posters, newspapers that you both enjoy.
 - Encourage the children to make up their own characters and stories.
 - Buy books as presents.
 - Make a special place to keep reading books.
- Join the library, they have lots of fun and free events and have free internet access.
- When reading point out unusual words and talk about what they mean.
- Let your child see you reading, talk about what you like and don't like to read.

We all learn more when we enjoy what we are learning!

Useful websites:

Oxford Owl:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/expert-help/helping-struggling-readers>

Topmarks website:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/parents/ten-tips-on-hearing-your-child-read>



A quick guide to: Reading at home

KS1 Reading Workshop

