

Prompts for Reading Discussions

When reading with your child use these helpful prompts to support reading.

Before reading:

- Why have you chosen this text?
- What kind of text is it?
- What do you already know about the text?
- Does it have anything in common with any other texts you have read.
- What strategies will you use when reading unknown words in this text?
- What do you think is going to happen?

During Reading:

- Who is telling the story?
- Who is the story about?
- Is the vocabulary mostly familiar?
- Are there any unfamiliar words?
- What have you learnt about...?
- How do you imagine....feels?
- Why did....happen?
- What would you do?
- How will the problem be solved?
- What do the images show you? Why are they there?
- How is the text organised?

After reading:

- What did you like/dislike about the text?
- Did anything surprise you about the text?
- What have you learnt from what you've read?
- How did you feel when...?
- What was your opinion of....?
- Would you be friends with....?
- What would have happened if...?
- Do you know someone like...?
- Would you recommend this book to others?
- Are you left with any questions in your head?

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"Developing the Individual"

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Top Tips
for supporting
Reading

The Importance of Reading

Reading opens the door to learning and to the world. It underpins everything we do and is essential to every day life. In order to survive, we need to be able to read instructions, signs and safety information as well as reading for pleasure.

Reading Strategies

- Children should sound out/blend words where possible.

E.g. Chick

“Ch” - “i” - “ck”

- Look for clues in the pictures
- Split the words into smaller words

E.g. Thundering

Thun + der + ing = Thundering

- Read to the end of the sentence then go back to work it out.
- See if it looks like a word you already know.

E.g. If your child can read ‘should’ then reading ‘could’ and ‘would’ shouldn’t be too much of a problem.

Top Tips for Encouraging Reading

As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant.

3. Maintain the flow

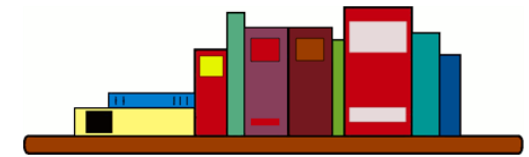
If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.



6. Visit the Library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly.

7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

8. Communicate

Your child's reading diary from school is very important. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

9. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g.. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books.