Reading at Home and School

2017

The Power of Reading

- Reading is a key skill and central to your child's development.
- Creating a love of reading in children is potentially one of the most powerful ways of improving academic success in school.
- There can be few better ways to improve pupils chances in school, or beyond in the wider world than to enable them to become truly independent readers.

Pre-Reading Skills

- Talking is the foundation for reading. Asking questions, sharing experiences, singing songs and reciting rhymes immerse children in having fun with language.
- A love of books and reading starts early in a child's life with the sharing of picture books and story time.

Reading Skills

- The ability to recognise words presented in and out of context.
- The ability to blend letter sounds (phonemes) together to read words.

- The ability to understand the meaning of the words and sentences in a text.
- The ability to understand the ideas, information and themes in a text.
- If a child understands what they hear, they will understand the same information when they read.

Phonics and Word Recognition

Comprehension (understanding)

Phonics

- Children learn to distinguish the sounds around them from the 44 phonemes in the English language.
- As well as continuing to develop a rich vocabulary, children learn to link the phonemes they hear to the graphemes (written letters) on a page.
- From the first graphemes learnt, children are taught to blend them together to read simple words

Phonics

- Children are taught irregular or 'tricky' words
- As they progress, they are introduced to digraphs (2-letter graphemes) and trigraphs (3-letter graphemes).
- Children go on to explore patterns and rules

Comprehension

- Being able to read does not mean you understand what you read.
- Your child might sound like a good reader but may not necessarily understand what the text means.
- The best way to develop understanding is to talk about texts. Children should draw on their own experiences, the settings of stories and the pictures to help them understand what they are reading about.

Reading in School

There are many different ways of teaching and practising reading:

- Phonics
- Shared reading
- Guided reading
- Independent reading
- Paired reading
- Focused reading activities
- Reading across the curriculum
- Class novels and stories

Reading at Home

- Your child will usually have two reading books in their book bag (as well as a phonics folder in Reception)
- Banded reading book a book for your child to practise their reading skills at a level they can access
- Library book a book chosen by your child for you to share together for pleasure

Hearing your Child Read

- Choose a quiet time and give your child your full attention;
- Give support if required using the strategies explained;
- Explain the meaning of new words;
- Talk about the text using open questions.

Top Tips for Enjoying Reading at Home

Read Every Day!

- Learning to read is challenging. Children who read at home make significantly better progress in school than those who do not.
- Children love routine make reading together something you both look forward to.
- Reading to you allows your child to practise their skills. Give them time to work out words and show how they can learn from their mistakes.

Lead by Example

- If your child sees you reading for pleasure or information, they will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.
- Boys need to see that reading is something that men do too. Remember, reading is not restricted to novels.

Make Reading Fun

- Join in
- Use different voices
- Act the stories out
- Use your child's own name for one of the character's names
- Talk about the books
- Respect choices

Make Reading Relevant

- If the book is about something your chid is interested in, they will be happier to read it.
- Look at both fiction and non-fiction books to show your child how reading allows us to explore our interests and the world

Build Confidence

Don't be tempted to push your child too hard. Being asked to try to read books that are too difficult can damage their confidence. Reading a book that is easier gives a sense of achievement, encouraging them to read on their own and reinforcing the fact that they can read, and read well

Give Praise

- Your child needs to know that you value their efforts.
- Becoming a fluent reader will take a lot of time and practise.

Read to your Child

- Story time is hugely valuable.
- You can introduce different types of books: classic fiction, chapter books, non-fiction, poetry, joke books
- Books above their independent reading level will expose your child to a rich vocabulary, new plots, settings and characters

What to do if your Child is Stuck

- Use phonics first. What sound does the word begin with? Can you say the sounds in the word? Blend them together.
- Read to the end of the sentence. What would make sense?
- What is the text about what might fit here?
- Does it sound right?
- Look at the picture. Does it help?

How to use these Strategies at Home

John let his pet frog go.

It *****across the grass.

What is the first sound?

It h**** across the grass.

What would make sense?

It hopping across the grass.

Does that sound right?

It hopped across the grass.

Closed or Open Questions?

- Do you like this book?
- Do you like this character?
- It's a good story isn't it?
- Do you like reading?
- Are you good at reading?
- Do you like this kind of story?

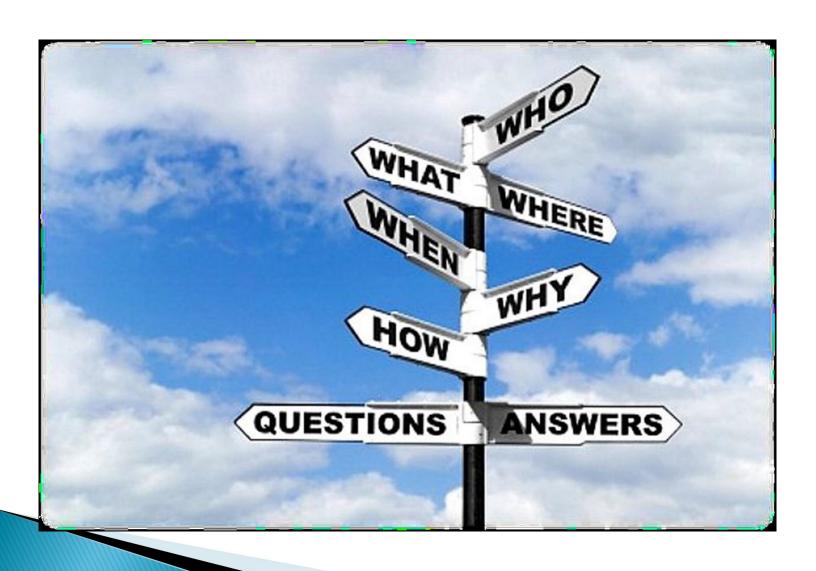
Change these questions so that the answers cannot be *yes* or *no*.

- What do you like about this book?
- What do you think of this character?
- Why do you think this is a good story?
- What's great about reading?
- Why are you a good reader?
- What is it about these stories that you like so much?

Websites

- www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home
- www.letters-and-sounds.com
- www.phonnicsplay.co.uk
- www.topmarks.co.uk/english
- www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics
- www.ictgames.com
- www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/pedagogy/ phonics
- www.parentsintouch.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents
- www.jollylearning.co.uk/
- www.focusonphonics.co.uk/
- www.syntheticphonics.com
- www.read-count.org/index.asp
- www.early-education.org.uk
- www.nationalliteracytrust.org.uk/familyreading/parents

Questions



Independent Strategies *by Jill Marie Warner*

When I get stuck on a word in a book. There are lots of things I can do. I can do them all, please, by myself; I don't need help from you. I can look at the picture to get a hint. Or think what the story's about. I can "get my mouth ready" to say the first letter. A kind of "sounding out". I can chop up the words into smaller parts, Like on or ing or ly, Or find smaller words in compound words Like raincoat and bumblebee.

I can think of a word that makes sense in that place, Guess or say "blank" and read on Until the sentence has reached its end, Then go back and try these on: "Does it make sense?" "Can we say it that way?" "Does it look right to me?" Chances are the right word will pop out like the sun In my own mind, can't you see? If I've thought of and tried out most of these things And I still do not know what to do, Then I may turn around and ask For some help to get me through.