



Tips on hearing your child read

As a parent you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child learn to read.

When children read widely, and for pleasure, they also become better writers. It helps them to:

Improve their vocabulary

See how different authors develop characters

Experience plot twists and turns that they can emulate in their own writing

Here are some suggestions on how to make Reading at home a positive experience:

Before you start

- Choose a quiet time with no distractions. 10-15 minutes is enough.
- Make reading an enjoyable experience, sit with your child but don't force them if they are reluctant.
- Talk about the cover and appearance of the book e.g:

Why did you choose it? (if they chose it themselves)

Who is the author?

Have you read any other books by this author?

How did you feel about them?

What do you think the story will be about? (fiction) Does the back cover give any clues?

- Remind your child of different ways they can work out words if they are stuck:

Phonetic: sounding out the word, encourage your child to use the letter sounds rather than the alphabet names.

Contextual: reading the rest of the sentence to put the word in context.

During Reading

- Use plenty of praise for your child's achievements. Stop at appropriate places in the text to ask questions about the plot and characters. Ask your child to make predictions about what might happen next.
- **Golden rule:** if your child mispronounces the word don't interrupt at first and allow them to correct it themselves. However if they cannot do this just tell them the word and move on. Flow is important too as it helps with understanding.

After Reading

- Discuss the text and your child's attitude towards it:

Did you enjoy it? Why? Why not?

Did you have a favourite character? Was there a character you didn't like?

How do you think the character felt when...?

Was the story happy/funny/sad/scary/exciting?

Why?

Did the story end how you thought it would?

Why was the book called...?

Did you learn anything new from this book?

- Try to read with your child on most school days. Use the reading diary to communicate with the class teacher regularly with positive comments or any concerns you have.
- Don't forget, reading does not just have to take place at a set time or place, words are everywhere signs, labels, posters etc