



It is also important for children to be read to. When you read to your child you are making a positive impact on your child's reading ability and their love of reading. There is almost universal agreement that listening to stories is 'good' for children who are learning to read. You can motivate your child to read by regularly sharing a book with them. Your child will sense your love of books, your enjoyment of a good story and your appreciation of good illustrations.

With younger children it can be fun to read familiar stories together, pointing at the words and allowing children to join in with well-known stories and develop ideas of the relationship between sound and print. With children of any age it will help to develop imagination and enrich vocabulary development.



### **Sharing books makes a big difference to your child's education.**

Reading regularly is so important to the development of fluent reading, and engaging with what your child is reading is key to developing a successful reader. Reading a book and chatting about it, has a positive impact on your child's ability to:

- understand words and sentences
- use a wide range of vocabulary
- develop listening and comprehension skills

Sharing books your child has chosen to read for pleasure is one of the best things you can do to help them succeed at school. In fact, a love of reading is known to be the biggest indicator of future academic success!

*Parental involvement in the development of children's reading skills: A five-year longitudinal study (2002) Senechal, M. and Lefvre, J.*

We do not expect you to teach your child to read – that is our role at school. However, practising with them regularly will make a huge difference to their fluency, help them to develop a love of reading in the future and enable them to access all areas of the curriculum.

Here are our favourite top tips for when reading with your child:

1. Find a comfortable place and sit still, ready to concentrate.
2. Make sure both of you can see the book easily, but let your child hold it.
3. Keep the reading time as regular as possible – but it doesn't need to be for long. 5-10 minutes is fine for Reception and KS1 children, a little longer for KS2 if they want to.
4. Use plenty of praise.
5. Be as patient as you can be, allow time for the reader to think and self-correct if they mis-read a word.
6. Help keep up the pace by reading alternate sentences or pages, so that the meaning of the text is not lost.
7. Encourage your child to “guess and check”
8. Help out with tricky words – remind your child about different cues (first letter sound, picture, read on, come back, etc) but provide the word when necessary – don't make an issue of it.
9. There's more to being a good reader than merely reading the text – ask them some questions about what they have read or seen in the pictures. Do they understand what they have read?

Vocabulary	Pick out two or three words to discuss their meaning in the book. Talk about other words that have the same meaning
Infer	Look at how a character is feeling and ask, “How do you know that?”; can your reading buddy explain why something has happened in the story?
Predict	Part way through reading, encourage your reading buddy to predict what might happen next – why did they suggest that?
Explain	Can your reading buddy explain why a character is their favourite? Can they tell you whether they like to story? Ask them to explain why they feel that way.
Retrieve	Pick out some key events or people and ask your reading buddy to retrieve information from the text about them
Summarise	Can your reading buddy sum up the key points from a chapter or a book they have just read?

*It is also good to read books in your home language and for your child to hear expert talk from you in your own language. It is the 'back-and-forth' talk when sharing books that makes the difference to children's language and comprehension.*