



Enjoying reading at home.



Never underestimate your own importance.

Your child will often want to copy the things they see you doing. This is because they look to you to know how to behave. So, if there's something you want your child to enjoy or engage with, it can help them to see you doing that thing often.

Reading is a great example of this. The more your child sees you read, the more they will want to do it. Of course, books are an important part of this, but there are several ways you can set an example reading. Recipes, magazines, shopping lists, signs and posters – reading them aloud and looking at them will encourage your child to be curious about them.

If you're reading things online, try to read this aloud to your child. This shows them that what you're doing has a purpose. It will also allow them to ask questions and chat to you about what you're reading. This is a way of sharing interests with your child and introducing them to new words and ideas.

You might sometimes hear this being called 'modelling'. That means setting an example for your child by doing that thing yourself.

Good to know

When children see their parents reading for enjoyment, they will assume that reading is a fun and natural experience and will be more likely to want to do it.

The Literacy Trust (www.literacytrust.org.uk) has lots of little activities that you can do together. Below too are a few of our thoughts.

1. **Read often.** Always have a range of books lying around at home so your child can pick them up, even for a few minutes, throughout the day. Little and often is key so try and read with your children daily, even if only for a few minutes. It could be sharing a book together or reading beside each other. Your child will treasure quality time with you and the chance of physical closeness.
2. **Enjoy it.** Reading should be a relaxing experience. Setting aside some quiet time each day, with no distractions, to share a book with your child is a great way to make reading enjoyable. If they do lose interest or find a text tricky, guide them to something more accessible or something more engaging and challenging. Remember we are here

- to help and have a range of books in school for sharing. If you are looking to purchase a new book, recommendations and displays in book shops can be really helpful. Online children's books/literacy websites – e.g. Scottish Book Trust, National Literacy Trust and CLPE can also provide inspiration and Book award winners from Blue Peter, Carnegie and Katie Greenaway, Caldecott Medal and Smarties are also great sources of ideas.
3. **Have a choice.** Joining a local library is a great way for children to access hundreds of books and save some money too! Letting your child choose what they want to read will help them to develop their own interests.
 4. **Read anything!** Sometimes mood or energy levels can impact on levels of enjoyment. Flicking through a magazine or a newspaper rather than a book may sometimes be preferable. Comics and picture books are also great ways to enjoy reading. You could also read letters, maps, poems, newspapers, information books, TV listings, cookery books, football programmes, manuals, labels, signs and leaflets.
 5. **Understand what you read.** Ask questions to check understanding. Discuss the characters, settings and plot. Make links to your/your child's own experiences. Stop reading halfway and discuss what might happen next. Pick out new or interesting words and discuss their meaning. Some possible questions:

Does this story remind you of any others we have read and why? What are the similarities and differences?

How do you know what the main character is like or how they are feeling? What tells you this?

What new vocabulary have we learnt from the book? What does it mean?

What do you think will happen next in the story? What do you know already?

Can you summarise what we have read? What were the main events?

Can you tell me some facts? How are these different to opinions?

Encourage your child to be a detective and find evidence in the text.

6. **Repeat, Repeat, Repeat!** If your child has their favourites, it is OK to read them again and again. This will embed their love for reading and also build on their confidence and fluency, allowing them to use more expression.
7. **New vocabulary.** Helping your child to sound out unknown words will prevent them from losing flow and retain the meaning of the text. Reading sentences again can also be useful when they have learnt new vocabulary to understand the meaning.
8. **Model positivity.** Writing positive comments in your child's reading record will help to boost their self-esteem. Remember to ask your child's teacher for advice on things that they are finding tricky too!
9. **Be a model reader.** We know that children learn from us and they are influenced by others around them. Watching you read is the best example for your child to develop good reading habits. It doesn't matter what it is, a cookery book, a newspaper or something from the post, all these will encourage your child to read too.
10. **Give praise.** Most importantly, be positive about reading and boost your child's confidence with constant praise for small achievements. Take your time and enjoy it!

The National Curriculum in England states:

'All pupils must be encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world they live in, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely and often increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure house of wonder and joy for curious young minds.'

Reading Challenge

As you are aware, we are working hard to further raise the profile of reading in our school. We continue to be extremely proud of the children who take part in our reading challenge each year and are always looking to increase our numbers!

We would like to encourage more children to read widely and often, with your support. To achieve the challenge, your child needs to read every day (7 times per week) and record each read in their reading records. Reading records will be checked on Friday mornings. Reading could be independent, shared or paired or a mix of all three!

Each half term, children who have taken part in the challenge will receive a badge/sticker for a bookmark, with a certificate at the end of the year for those who have completed all 6 half terms. We hope to celebrate these children with a special assembly and add their names to our roll of honour! Please do encourage your child to join in with our reading journey.