

Home reading tips

Read yourself!

Let your child see you reading. They will imitate your behaviour - books also provide a great way to unwind after work.

Encourage children to read together!

Reading simpler stories to siblings gives older children an opportunity to practice reading with fluency and expression. They also become important reading role models.

Make reading part of bedtime!

Even if time cannot be found for reading together every evening, there's still plenty of opportunities to engage with programmes, such as CBeebies Bedtime Stories, every night at 6:50pm.

Get your child their own Library card!

The library provides a wonderful environment where children can expand their minds and vocabulary for free - borrowing books can also help to teach children an important sense of responsibility!

The right books!

Help your child choose books which extend their natural fields of interest! Your local library is a great place to start when it comes to selecting books at the appropriate reading level, and your child's teachers will also be happy to help guide your choices.

Record Achievements!

A visual achievement chart can help motivate your child and give them a sense of accomplishment.

Questions to ask

Before Reading...

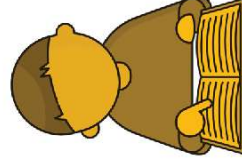
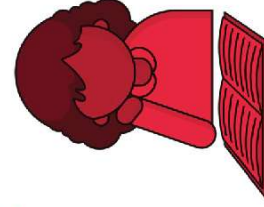
- What do you think this story will be about?
- Have you read any other books about...?
- Have you read any other books by...?
- Why did you choose this book?
- Do you like the front cover?

During Reading...

- How do you think... is feeling?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- How would you feel if that happened?
- How did you work out that word?
- What do you think the author meant by...?
- Why do you think that happened?
- What effect does that rhyme have on...?

After Reading...

- Who was your favourite character... why?
- Did you enjoy the story... why?
- Does this book remind you of any others?
- What was the most interesting part?
- Would you change any part of the book?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Would you recommend the book... why?



What if children struggle?

Although undeniably important, reading as a skill is not something which comes naturally for the human brain and some children, as we will all have experienced, do struggle.

Naturally some children will acquire the many skills required to read fluently quicker than others, however, there are children who will experience specific difficulties requiring special support.

If you think your child may have a problem when it comes to reading, it is important to discuss your concerns with teachers at school, who can help tailor a programme of support.

As a parent, there are certain steps you can take to help reluctant and struggling readers from home.

Try not to worry - it will naturally take some children longer to master the many complex skills involved.

Create a reading space - a private, cosy space can help encourage reluctant readers to relax and enjoy books.

Reading without realising - many activities like cooking with recipes make reading fun. They also provide great ways to spend quality time together.

Don't forget audio books - They make literature accessible. Children develop important listening skills and engage with material above their reading level.

