

Reading at Home

Now that we have started to learn to read and write, your child will start bringing home reading books from school. In the first instance, your child will bring home a book that has words that your child may not be able to read yet. It is for you to read to your child and talk about together. When your child is ready, we will begin to send home another book for your child to read to you. This book will be carefully chosen so that your child can sound out and blend all of the words. Below, you can find some information about how you can read a story to your child.

How to read a story to your child:

If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child.

On the first reading:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

Read favourite stories over and over again.

On later readings:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.
- Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.
- Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.

Your child will also come home with a reading diary. This is for you to record any books that your child reads at home and for us to record books that they read at school. We like to hear about how your child is getting on with their reading and sharing these achievements with your child.