

## Reading to your child at home - why doing so every day is so vital

Research shows that the first 3 to 5 years of life is when the most rapid growth in the brain occurs. Therefore, everything a child is exposed to during this time will set the stage for future learning.



Reading to your child creates a nurturing atmosphere, similar to when they were a baby. It will help them to create a positive association with books and reading.

Research has shown that being read to regularly increases your chances of performing better at reading and writing. There is also considerable evidence of one year's extra progress in school when a child reads 10 minutes a day.



Reading to your child will increase their vocabulary, which in turn improves their reading and writing.

Listening to stories helps children understand how they work - they learn about characters and settings, how stories start and end and phrases that are used regularly (E.g. Once upon a time.)



Listening to stories regularly helps children to make predictions, develop rhyming skills, increases attention, logical thinking, imagination and curiosity!

Plus, surveys of children have shown that over 80% 'love' or 'strongly like' being read to!

What better reason?!



## Top tips for reading to your child at home:

- Set aside some time - every day find somewhere quiet and without any distractions. Between 10 – 15 minutes.
- Continue to read storybooks with your child in addition to school reading level books. Let your child choose the book - even if it's one they have heard lots of times already!
- Encourage them to hold the book and turn the pages.
- Encourage your child to sound out the words.
- Discuss what will happen next, talk about how the characters are feeling and how the book makes them feel.
- Make it fun - enjoy the time together!



## Levelled reading books at home in Reception Class

We encourage you to read every night with your child and ideally read each levelled reading book 3 times and write a comment each time you read. Reading the same book three times in a row will support your child's progress. However as a minimum we ask you to sign your child's levelled reading book **5 times** a week. The children then earn their reading stamp and change their books. By collecting stamps they are working their way through our reading badges. Books will not be changed if they have not been signed 5 times.

The day your child changes their reading book is on the front of their reading record. These need to be brought in on the correct day. This is also the day when staff at school will read with your child and this will be recorded in their reading record.

We greatly value the comments parents write and the insight this gives us into the children's reading progress. I have written an example below of what we would hope to see in the reading records. By reading 5-10 minutes daily with your child every day you are investing in their future reading success.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Book title and page number</b>	<b>Parent/teacher comment</b>
7.1.20	Dig, dig, dig	Amira was able to sound out the words with help dig, pen, pot. She remembered these memory words: the, and, to
8.1.20	Dig, dig, dig	Amira enjoyed reading this story a lot. She was able to tell me what might happen next in the story.
9.1.20	A Good Trick	Amira read the sentence 'a big box' by herself. She read the sentences fluently, without sounding out.
11.1.20	A Good Trick	Amira talked about the stories and characters well. She was able to find all the pictures that start with 's'.

Listed below are some further comments which may help you when writing in your child's reading record book to describe how your child has read to you at home. To build a realistic picture and encourage your child appropriately, it is essential for both parent and teacher to have an open and honest dialogue and as such, it is important to record both positive and developmental comments. The statements below are just a guide; please feel free to alter the wording and write what best suits your experiences. For more information, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

- Read familiar words independently.
- Able to predict what happens next in the text.
- Showed good understanding of the text
- Read with good expression.
- Worked out new words independently.
- Worked out new words by sounding them out.
- Discussed the story and characters well.
- Enjoyed reading this book a lot
- Self-corrected own errors independently
- Read with fluency and expression
- Struggled to concentrate.
- Self-corrected his/her own errors
- Able to read this book with lots of help

As well as reading their levelled book we still encourage you to read stories to your child every night. Over the page are some tips about reading stories with your children.

Happy reading!