



**Children who read do better in school!**

**How to help you child with their reading**



### **Why Read With Your child?**

Reading with your child, for just a few minutes a day, will help them develop their vocabulary, their understanding of language and help them develop a love of books. Children love spending time with the grown-ups in their lives too!

Age is no barrier – just because your child may be a confident, older reader does not mean you cannot share reading experiences. Talk to you child about what they are reading; share the book together; ask them to tell you about the characters or plot.

Showing an interest is important.

Reading regularly is vital.

## **My Child Doesn't Want to Read**

With so many other activities competing for children's time, how can you continue to encourage your child to read for pleasure?

- **Ensure that your children see you reading.** It doesn't matter if it's the newspaper, a cookery book, romantic novel, detective mystery, short stories, computer manual, magazine - anything!
- **Encourage children to join in** - ask a child to read out a recipe for you as you cook, or the TV listings when you are watching TV.
- **Give books or book tokens as presents**, and encourage others to do so too.
- **Visit the local library together** on a regular basis, and enjoy spending time choosing new books.
- **Encourage** children to carry a book at all **times** so they can read on journeys or in spare moments – you can do this, too!
- **Keep reading together.** Read books you can all talk about but make the talk light-hearted, not testing or over-questioning.
- **Go to libraries or bookshops when authors are visiting.** Children love meeting their favourite writers - Jacqueline Wilson and Anthony Horowitz always have signing queues that are miles long!
- **Make sure your home is a reading home** - have a family bookshelf and make sure there are shelves in your children's bedrooms as well.
- **Don't panic if your child reads the same book over** and over again - be honest, we've probably all done it!
- If your child is tired or reluctant to read, just read to them in a relaxed way, so that you both enjoy the book.

## **Questions to ask before you read**

- Can you look at the pictures and predict what you think will happen in this book?
- What makes you think that?
- What characters do you think might be in our story?
- Do you think there will be a problem in this story? Why or why not?
- Does the topic/story relate to you or your family? How?

### **Questions to ask during the reading**

- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- Can you predict how the story will end?
- Why do you think the character did \_\_\_\_\_?
- What would you have done if you were the character?
- How would you have felt if you were the character? (use different characters)
- As I read \_\_\_\_\_, it made me picture \_\_\_\_\_ in my head. What pictures do you see in your head?
- As you read, what are you wondering about?
- Can you put what you've just read in your own words?

### **Questions to ask after reading**

- Can you remember the title?
- In your opinion, was it a good title for this book? Why or why not?
- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- If there was a problem, did it get solved?
- What happened because of the problem?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What is the most important point the author is trying to make in his writing?
- What was your favourite part of the story?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be?
- Can you retell the story in order?
- If you were \_\_\_\_\_, how would you have felt?
- What is the most interesting situation in the story?
- Is there a character in the story like you? How are you alike?
- Why did you like this book?

**Happy Reading! And remember...**

**Model reading behaviour**

**Set a routine**

**Celebrate all reading!**

**Tips for when you are hearing your child read can be found here:**

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/parents/ten-tips-on-hearing-your-child-read>

<https://www.figur8.net/2018/03/21/reading-questions/>

### **Useful websites:**

#### **Oxford Owl**

The “Reading” tab of the website offers resources on helping struggling readers, encouraging reading, and working on issues including phonics, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Check out the ideas Oxford Owl suggests for games and activities.

#### **Reading Rockets**

On *Reading Rockets*, visit the “Helping Struggling Readers” page if your child is having trouble learning to read. “Target the Problem!” opens a tool that defines a variety of reading difficulties, such as fluency and comprehension. This tool also links to a “How to Help” page, which offers tips to both children and their parents.

#### **ReadWriteThink**

A website that offers resources for primary age children. Under the “Parent & Afterschool Resources” tab, visit the podcast section to find book reviews for different age groups. You can also find links to the “Activities & Projects,” “Games & Tools,” “Tips & How-To’s,” and “Printouts” pages.

#### **Scholastic (UK website)**

In the “Parents” section of Scholastic, look for resources under specific ages.

**Booktrust.** There are lots of information under the Books and reading and Tips and advice sections.

**Teach your Monster to Read** is a fun online resource where your child teaches a monster to read, while of course, developing their own reading skills too.