

Reading at home

One of the best ways you could support your children's learning at home is to read with your child on a daily basis. Research continues to show that learning to read is directly linked to children's success at school and beyond. Experts in child literacy believe that the key to learning to read, and loving it, is borne through the positive effect of the power of the parent-child bond. This means the reading you do at home with your children has a huge impact on their attitude to reading.

We know that it takes time to read with your child and it can be difficult to know what questions to ask, so to help with this here are a few questions you might want to ask at home. These questions are designed to help your children reflect on what they have read and deepen their understanding. Please don't think that you have to ask every question every time you read, some questions are more relevant to the particular text you are reading.

Here are some suggestions:

- What is this character feeling at this point? How do you know?
- Can this word/phrase have more than one meaning?
- Which word told you that?
- Where else in the story did that happen?
- What might happen next?
- Find some words or phrases that tell you about the setting.
- Can you find a word which shows she is upset/naughty/being kind?
- What does this word mean? (use the context to help find the meaning of unfamiliar words)
- What other synonyms do we know for that word? Which is best for this sentence?

Some children are reluctant readers and it can be a challenge to encourage them to pick up a book, so we have put together a few suggestions for you to try.

Read for pleasure:

Most children enjoy snuggly bedtime stories and there is no need to stop this daily ritual once your child can read themselves. Listening to stories nurtures a love for books and enables them to access interesting content beyond their reading level as well as hear the expression and intonations used in storytelling. As they get older try taking it in turns to read a sentence, page or chapter.

Make it funny:

Encourage humorous discussion about a story by adding a joke or misinterpreting a picture. There are loads of funny books out there to explore and find out what appeals to your child.

Broaden the range:

The 'classic' books don't always appeal to children but maybe if it is an ebook they will be more inclined to read it. There are also comics, joke books, funny poetry and great graphic novels available.

Read for a purpose:

Draw your children into reading with a book with hands-on activities like coding, craft making, scooter tricks, football skills. It gives them a reason to read without the pressure of reading a book from cover to cover. You know your children's interests, find a non-fiction book which will appeal to their passion.