

READING AT HOME

Key Stage 2

A Parents' Guide

Once children have developed the basic skills of reading, there can be a risk that their motivation and enthusiasm begins to lessen. This is a vital sign in children's reading development and the point at which parents can offer invaluable support. Taking the time to talk to your children about the books they choose and listening to them reading aloud regularly can make all the difference. Children need to understand why we read. They need to experience the range of feelings that a book can create or the power that can be gained from accessing information. Reading must not only be confined to stories. Many children love reading comics, magazines, newspapers, information books and poetry. All of these reading activities should be encouraged.

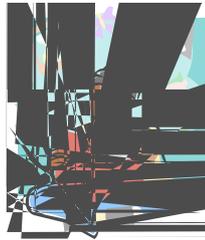
Children in Key Stage 2 will all be at very different stages of development, but even for the most fluent readers there is a need for parental support.

Most parents or carers are able to create quality time to share a book individually with one child. This is the time when children can develop a much deeper understanding of the books that they are reading. Rather than reading at home being 'reading practice', it should extend and enrich the reading experiences of school. One of the most powerful ways in which parents can do this is to show real enthusiasm themselves. Your sense of excitement about books and stories, your anticipation about what will happen next in a story and a discussion about your own likes and dislikes, will greatly influence your child.

Asking questions that go beyond the literal meaning of the book will help your child to think more deeply about what they are reading. Encourage your child to use the school and local libraries.

Books and stories open up new worlds of excitement

and imagination for children!



Helping Your Child With Reading

The following points are to support you when reading at home with your child. Regular, daily reading is the key to reading success. Two or three of these sessions could be your child reading silently to him/herself followed by a discussion about the book. The other days could be an opportunity for your child to read aloud. Please sign your child's reading record each time they have read recording the pages covered. The amount of time children spend reading will vary. Be encouraging and guided by your child's interest. These guidelines may help you develop reading further.

- ❖ Make sure you are relaxed and comfortable during the reading session.
- ❖ Encourage your child to read with expression.
- ❖ Your child should be able to read approximately 9 out of every 10 words in the book, less than this and the book may be too difficult.
- ❖ Discuss the meaning of difficult or usual words and encourage your child to use these new words in sentences when talking to you.
- ❖ Ask questions about the characters, the plot, the ending of the book and whether your child enjoyed it. If your child is not enjoying a story, stop reading it and ask them to change the book.
- ❖ Encourage talk about favourite authors and illustrators, giving reasons for their choices.
- ❖ Try and make sure that your child reads a range of different books, not always stories.
- ❖ Model the reading process yourself by having your own book/ paper to read.
- ❖ Give lots of praise and encouragement.
- ❖ Keep up a regular dialogue with your child's teacher through the home/school reading book.
- ❖ Have fun!