



Helping Your Child

- to read, write, spell and speak

Reading with your child at home

Reading is important

Reading has always been an important skill. In our modern world it is more important than ever.

Children learn about the importance of reading as they watch family members use reading and writing for everyday purposes.

Reading with your child at home will help your child in all learning areas at school.

Children see you reading and writing in everyday life - reading for pleasure, sharing a story with your child, using a recipe, making a shopping list, writing a birthday card or reading a street sign. This teaches children that reading and writing are useful skills in today's world.

Often parents are asked by the school to listen to their child read at home. It's a good way of supporting your child's reading. Books may be borrowed from your school library or your local library.

Be confident that your child will learn to read.

What can I do at home to help?

- Be yourself. Involve children in everyday conversations.
- Read aloud to children. It helps them to learn the language of books. Read together and make reading an enjoyable, shared activity.
- Make sure there is a wide range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction.
- It is important to read to your child in your home language if your first language is not English. Experience shows that using your home language will help your child to learn to read in English.
- Try not to let television intrude on reading time. Make a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- Talk with your child about what they have read. Talk about what happened in a story. Ask about what new information they found.
- Listen to your child read every day, even for a short time.
- Give books as treats and presents.

Hints for listening to your child read

Before reading, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.

During reading, discuss the story so far and try to guess what happens next.

After reading, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.

When reading a harder book together take turns. Beginning readers can read the repetitive parts and more experienced readers can read a paragraph or a page.



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On finding an unknown word:

- **Pause** to give your child time to work out the word
- **Prompt**
 - go back to the beginning of the sentence, or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence
 - look for a clue in the picture or the words
 - look at the first letter and think about what the word could be
 - ask "Does this make sense?"
 - tell your child the word if necessary
- **Praise** your child for trying, even if mistakes are made.

What to read and do

- Tell and re-tell stories of all kinds including favourite stories, fairy tales, movie plots, local news items and family history.
- Play games such as "I spy ... something beginning with"
- Ask your child to read out simple recipes while you cook together.
- Read comics, magazines, short stories, poems and rhymes, including nursery rhymes.
- Look up information in cook books, manuals, phone books, atlases and dictionaries.
- Read newspapers together.
- Do crosswords and other word puzzles together.
- Read the TV guide before watching a program.
- Look at letterbox leaflets together.
- Read directions and signs when driving and shopping.
- Read and write notes and letters to family members.
- Play board games together and read the rules.
- Provide plastic letters, crayons, pencils, pens and writing paper.

And do remember ...

- Discuss the meaning of stories and words.
- Encourage your child to read anywhere and at any time.
- Let your child see you enjoying reading.
- Visit and use a library near you. Borrow books for yourself as well as your child.
- Talk to your child's classroom teacher or the principal for further help and advice.

Enjoy reading.
It should
be fun.