

Reading is Great

If your child has only just started to read there are some simple things you can do to help:

1. Read to your child every day – little and often is best.
2. Talk about the cover of the book, the title and the pictures to work out what the book is going to be about.
3. Point to some words and ask your child to find them on other pages.
4. Point to the words as you read the story.
5. Re-read the story together so that the story becomes familiar and your child starts to recognise some words and joins in.
6. Point to some words around the home, or in the street, shops etc.
7. Play games like 'I spy...', and 'I went to market to buy...' this will help your child recognise the first sound of a word.
8. As your child begins to read don't let them struggle too long over a word, or they will lose the meaning of the story.
9. Always encourage your child's efforts to read.
10. Stop reading rather than read when tempers are frayed. Be positive and praise.

Remember to...

- Always encourage and be positive – provide plenty of praise.
- Be patient – give your child time to think and talk. Don't expect too much too soon.
- Match the speed and amount of work to the child's ability – little and often is the best way forward. Build on what they already know.
- Do not get upset if they do not finish a task.
- Accept that your child may forget things. We all do.
- Use open ended questions like 'Why do you think that shop is called 'Ring a Roses?'' rather than closed questions like 'What is that shop called?' Useful questions begin with things like 'Tell me how...', 'What is happening now...', 'I wonder why....', 'How do they....'.
- From time to time you could offer small incentives or rewards.
- Talk about your child's successes.

If you find things that help share them with us and other parents

Intermediate Readers

If your child has started to read on his or her own there are still plenty of things you can do to help.

1. Listen to them read every day, but also take time to read to them – perhaps a page each.
2. If they can't manage a word, just tell them. Don't let them struggle.
3. Talk about the story and the characters. Ask them questions and get them talking.
4. Join a library.
5. If they want to read the same book over and over, let them.
6. Let them see that you enjoy reading – children are great at copying.
7. Always praise your child without putting pressure on them to do more.
8. At the end of a page or a chapter ask 'What do you think will happen next?'
9. Read books that follow their interests. You might dip into difficult books to show your child how they are arranged.
10. Do something to praise reading e.g. talk, play, make something together.