

Supporting Reading at Home



As a parent you are probably helping your child with reading much more than you may realise. If your home contains books, magazines and catalogues and your child sees you reading, if you read to your child and talk together about familiar stories and if you also use printed materials to find things out, then your child already has a head start in this area.

- ☺ **Sharing a book** with a child is fun - it's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together.
- ☺ Make time for books and **reading together**.
- ☺ You can **share books anywhere** - in a chair, in the bath, on a train, or at bedtime.
- ☺ Children who **enjoy reading** are more likely to **enjoy writing**.
- ☺ **Talk about** what is happening in **the pictures** to help your child make sense of the story.
- ☺ Enjoy the **rhyming words** and laughing together at the funny bits.
- ☺ Help bring the books to life - draw pictures of your child's **favourite characters** and make up stories about them together.
- ☺ Find out about **recommended books** at libraries, bookshops and on book websites. See the list of recommended websites below.
- ☺ Try **a poem a day** as part of bedtime reading - there are great books offering a poem for every day of the year. Soon your child will be choosing a poem too!

Wordless Books

The first 'reading' books that your child **MAY** bring home, tell a story through illustrations rather than text. This allows children to learn how stories work and the order and direction in which to read. The absence of text encourages the children to focus on the illustrations in order to find out what is happening in the story. By learning to retell the story in their own words, they are developing the oral skills needed to become successful readers.

When using wordless books, it may help to:

- Tell your child the story in your own words to begin with.
- Then, look at the pictures in the book and talk about them together.
- Ask your child to re-tell the story in their own words. Encourage them to add as much detail as possible.

Books with Text

When your child brings home a reading book with text, they will have been coached on this book in school beforehand. Therefore, they should be familiar with the text. You can support reading books at home by using the following suggestions:

- ❖ Talk about the pictures, the characters, their feelings and where the story takes place.
- ❖ Talk about the title, author and illustrator.
- ❖ Talk about the words, full stops, capital letters, question marks and exclamation marks.
- ❖ Share the book together. You and your child could read it at the same time or you may prefer to read a page each.
- ❖ Let your child read the whole book to you. Talk about their favourite pages, words and pictures.
- ❖ Cover the pictures and see if they can still read it.
- ❖ Remember to give lots of praise and try to be as enthusiastic as possible.

Reading for Enjoyment Websites



- ☺ www.activityvillage.co.uk
A great activity site for Parents to share with young ones, including useful hints on costumes for World Book Day and a game "Guess who's behind the mask".
- ☺ www.dltk-kids.com/type/printable_bookmarks.htm
Free printable bookmarks to enhance any book. Lots of different themes from dragons to cats and cartoon characters to pirates.
- ☺ www.braw.org.uk
BRAW: Books, reading and writing - this organisation celebrates writers and illustrators living and working in Scotland. The site has useful information about which author has written what, how to contact them if you want to invite them to a school or library, and there's a monthly on-line book club.
- ☺ www.readit.org.uk
A brilliant new children's book review website developed by East Dumbartonshire Council's Young People's Resource Service. It's packed with reviews by children and young people of fantastic books they've read recently. The reviews are grouped by age range, type of book, author and so on. It's easy to use and looks great!
- ☺ www.myhomelibrary.org
Website run by children's author Anne Fine, download book plates to stick on and personalise your own books. Includes a section on tips for inexpensive ways of acquiring new books.
- ☺ www.readtogether.co.uk
A reading activity website with ideas and recommendations for both young and older children.
- ☺ www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/literacy/reading_help.shtml
A website for parents with information and hints on how to help children: also has links to games, activities and BBC literacy websites.
- ☺ www.scottishbooktrust.com
This is an independent charity, promoting books, reading and writing to people of all ages: organisers of *Bookstart*
- ☺ www.bookstart.co.uk
A national programme which encourages all parents and carers to enjoy books with children from as early an age as possible: it arranges for pre-school children to receive a special Bookstart bag to promote Reading for Enjoyment from an early age.
- ☺ www.booktrusted.co.uk
This site contains book information for children as well as recommending good reads – www.bestbookguide/index.php4 features interviews with authors etc.
- ☺ www.literacytrust.org.uk
This is a wide-ranging organisation committed to raising literacy levels throughout the UK with information about city-wide reading initiatives.
- ☺ www.fcbg.org.uk
The Federation of Children's Book Groups: the umbrella organisation for local groups throughout the UK.
- ☺ www.childliteracy.com
Child Literacy Website: guidance on how children learn to read and suggestions for ways in which parents and carers can support their child's reading.
- ☺ www.childrenslaureate.org
Children's Laureate: the official website.
- ☺ www.rif.org.uk
Reading is Fundamental: an initiative to provide young people with their own collection of books.

- ☺ www.achuka.co.uk
Achuka: information about children's books, writers and illustrators, publishers etc.
- ☺ www.askchris.essexcc.gov.uk
This website is run by Essex libraries, with recommended reads for both young people and adults. Search for books and information on the latest books, film and TV tie-ins.
- ☺ www.cool-reads.co.uk
100's of reading recommendations for and from 10 – 15 year olds. Search for new or previously reviewed books by genre/category.

- ☺ *****ALSO – don't forget about websites dedicated your favourite author.*****
e.g. www.roald-dahl.org
www.jkrowling.com