

How to help your child grow as a reader!

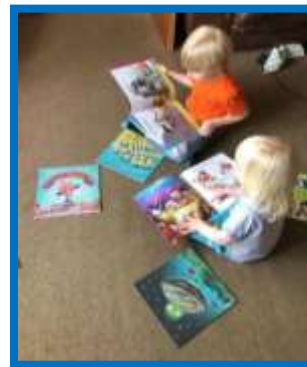


Parent Guide



Putting down strong roots – the pre-reading and early reading phase

- **Tell your stories to each other** – the story of your day; stories of what you did when you were little; stories you can tell in your own words; the story of what you plan to do in the holidays.
- **Say and sing nursery rhymes and poems.**
- **Share books regularly;** talk about the pictures and what happens; revisit books until they are known by heart; notice which books your child particularly enjoys, whether it be picture books, fairy tales, rhymes, non-fiction books or shopping catalogues.
- **Read or tell bedtime stories every day.**
- **Talk about print in the world around you** – in the kitchen, in the supermarket, in the street.
- **Join the local library.**



Caring for the seedling – building confidence in beginner readers

- **Reading to your child,** talking about books and enjoying them together is the most important thing you can do. Continue to read or tell bedtime stories regularly.
- **If your child brings home word games or simple reading books,** this is the time for them to show you what they can do. Help them sound out simple words if they are stuck. If the word is tricky to sound out, just tell them the word.
- **Talk about the pictures and characters** in books. Encourage your child to talk about books, for example re-telling a story in their own words using the pictures, or predicting what might happen next.
- **Show that reading is important, necessary and fun** – look up a recipe, read ingredients on labels. Show that you enjoy reading newspapers, magazines or books.
- **Visit the library with your child** and encourage them to take out a range of books – fiction, non-fiction, poetry and rhymes.



Encouraging growth – building independence and reading stamina

- **Bedtime stories are still invaluable!** Start to read longer, chapter books. By reading books which your child may not yet be able to read independently, you will feed your child's imagination, vocabulary and develop their understanding of story structures.
- **At the local library,** start to encourage an interest in favourite authors. Many children at this stage will 'latch onto' a particular author and want to keep reading them. This is to be encouraged. Try to introduce them to new authors as well – the children's librarian will always be happy to suggest suitable books and authors.



- **Encourage 'real world' reading** – choosing TV programmes from the newspaper; planning trips, holidays or shopping expeditions together using brochures, maps, catalogues or the internet.
- **Support research** for school topics by looking things up together in books or on the internet



In full bloom – confident readers enjoying wider range of reading



- **Read the books your child reads so that you can talk about them together.** Children's books are wonderful and many adults read them in preference to adult literature!
- **Use the library or internet to find out more about books and authors.**
- **Encourage your child to widen their reading experiences:** look out for new prize winning authors as well as the more well-known classic fiction for children.
- **Don't forget poetry!** You can listen to favourite poets read their own work on the children's section of the Poetry Archive.
www.poetryarchive.org/childrensarchive/home.do
- **And remember that you can never be too old for a bedtime story!**



If you would like any further information as to how you can support your child/children, please ask their class teacher, or contact Austin Farm's Reading Lead, Miss Brokenshire.

Ten Top Tips for Parents and Carers

1. Show interest:

Parental interest in a child's education is the biggest single factor in children's educational achievement. A relaxed, genuine interest in what your child is learning in school gives strong signals that you really believe their school life and their learning is important.

2. Give time:

Time is probably the greatest gift we can give our children. It will run out, so make the most of it! Giving some time, perhaps at mealtimes or bedtimes, provides opportunities for them to talk through their day or discuss any worries.

3. Let your child be the teacher:

If we can explain something to someone else, or better still, teach someone else, we really secure our own learning. So, ask your child to explain something they have learned – if you don't really understand it yourself, that's fine! It is very empowering and motivating for a child to 'be the teacher'.

4. Read to your child:

Reading to children is as beneficial as hearing them read and we are never too old to be read to! Read whatever you will both enjoy. At Key Stage 2 classic stories like 'The Hobbit' and 'Wind in the Willows' will do wonderful things for children's imaginations and vocabulary. 'Harry Potter', 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' and other books that the children might know as films are also great reads.

5. Read the same books as your child:

If you read the same books, you can discuss them together – and children's books are great reads! Join the library together, if you don't already belong. Librarians are there to offer helpful advice on books you might enjoy.

6. Provide the best conditions you can for reading and homework:

Some children can manage to work with background noise, but a quiet space is ideal. Encourage children to read or do homework while they are alert and not too tired. If your child is trying to remember something specific e.g. how to spell a word, then writing the word up in large writing on a piece of paper and pinning it up at the foot of the bed or on the wardrobe can really help – our subconscious minds do lots of learning for us while we sleep.

7. Computers:

Computers motivate most children and learning to read on screen is a vital skill our children need to learn. Many children are motivated to read and write on the computer. There are all sorts of useful websites – see our list.

8. Praise:

We all respond far better to praise than to criticism. Try to point out the 'good bits' in their reading and writing. Praise attempts at words.

9. Make it real:

Provide 'real world' reasons for reading and writing e.g. researching the 'Best Buy' for something you are hoping to buy; following recipes and helping with cooking. Try to do playful and interesting things that are not possible in school.

10. Play and have fun!

Children are programmed to play and motivated by anything presented in the form of a game. Board games, card games, spelling games, computer games, and sport – any form of play that you enjoy is great for children's emotional well-being and their learning!

WEBSITES FOR PARENTS WISHING TO HELP THEIR CHILD READ

FIVE TOP SITES

WORDS FOR LIFE

This site has lots of tips to get children reading; fun stuff to do; book recommendations; ideas for all ages up to end of KS2. Excellent site.

http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/?gclid=CPmU_4e_57ICFUXHtAodVE8A4w

BOOKTRUST

This is an extensive site giving tips on how to share books; book lists & recommendations; catering for all ages including adults. Highly recommended.

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/children/how-to-share-books/support-your-childs-reading-journey/>

OXFORD OWL

Free eBooks; advice and tips for supporting children in KS1 & KS2; lots of games & activities that support reading skills; links to Oxford reading schemes. Definitely worth a look.

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>

THE GUARDIAN

An excellent site dealing with all things 'bookish' – author interviews; reader reviews; what's hot and what's not... Probably most suited for kiddies who already have the reading habit, but a useful site for parents to keep up to date with children's books.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/booksforchildrenandteenagers>

LOVE READING 4 KIDS

This site regularly updates its reading lists for specific age groups. It gives synopses, reviews & recommendations. Useful for keeping abreast of what's popular in children's fiction.

<http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>

TIPS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S READING

FIRST SCHOOL YEARS

Provides a checklist of tips for hearing your child read.

<http://firstschoolyears.com/literacy/text/resources/readingtips.htm>

NETMUMS

Top ten tips on hearing your child read + a few related links.

<http://www.netmums.com/activities/fun-at-home/reading-together/top-ten-tips-to-help-your-child-read>

TOPMARKS

Ten general tips on hearing your child read. Rather sparse but a few further links to other similar websites.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Parents/ten-tips-on-hearing-your-child-read>

BBC

This is a general site giving brief overview of how to support your child across a range of subjects. There are links to activities supporting all areas of the Literacy curriculum.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>