

Sharing a reading book with your child

Reading is such a perfect opportunity to spend some invaluable time with your child. During the Reception year at school each child will make their own huge strides with their learning and reading is one part of this.

We discussed some strategies to use at the Reading meeting and here is a quick guide to ways to support your child through their first reading books when they begin to have words to read.

1. When you first take the book from the book bag allow your child to handle it. This allows them the opportunity to know which way to hold the book, how the pages turn and it also gives them ownership over their reading.
2. Talk to your child about the front page; talk about the title, what do they think is going to happen (and why do they think that?), which characters are involved in the story and can they make up a possible story from the title and front cover.
3. Then repeat this for the back page; talk about the 'blurb' and what we learn from the blurb. Has this helped their opinions form even more?
4. When you first start sharing books with words in encourage your child to use their finger to track the words from left to right. Tracking is a skill which will support your child in both their reading and when it comes to early writing. Pointing to each individual word will help them focus in one word at a time.
5. Model using different strategies to help your child read the words;
 - Using the pictures cues (alongside the first sound in a word)
 - Using their decoding skills- encourage them to sound out the word and then blend them together to hear a word (c-a-t = cat). We will send home the phonic sounds your child has learnt at school in groups of 6 so you will know what sounds they have covered.
 - Using the key words they have learnt- your child will begin having books that use words once they know the first blue word sheet- this allows them to have confidence to recognise some words and will enable them to begin reading some books with independence which is fantastic for their self-belief.
 - Use of the contextual cues as they read
6. Whilst you are reading try not to forget all of the other fundamental skills that come alongside the basic principle of decoding words. Stop and discuss what has happened so far, how do they know that, what do they think is going to happen, why they think that, how have the characters felt, what else could happen in the story... the possibilities are endless.

Ultimately enjoy sharing books with your children and this includes continuing to share stories together that you will read to them.

Remember it is quality over quantity and not a rush to get through the scheme at school.

Each child has their own individual way of learning and what works for you and your child will be different to another family. Making learning fun is vital and can support your child to overcome any barrier they may feel to reading.

Have fun sharing a range of books and enjoying this amazing time with your child.

The Reception Team.