

### Helping your KS1 child with reading at home.

As parents / carers, you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Whilst children read at school, individually, in groups and as part of a class, there are also lots of ways that you can support your child at home. We would encourage you to hear your child read their reading books as often as possible (remember little and often is best), but there are also other ways that you can read with your child or promote the pleasure of reading and here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

*'Young people who read outside of class daily are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.'*

*National Literacy Trust, 2012*

*'Children who read for pleasure are likely to do significantly better at school than their peers, making greater progress in mathematics, development of vocabulary and spelling.'*

*(Sullivan & Brown, Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: The role of reading, 2013)*

#### Vocabulary is vital

*'Poor vocabulary is the prime cause of academic failure' (Clegg et al)*

Did you know that around 20% of the marks in the new curriculum SATs reading test in KS1 and KS2 are based around giving / explaining the meaning of words in context, so developing the children's vocabulary is vital.

Why not have a word of the week on the fridge at home. We also have a word of the week in school in each classroom.

Becoming a reader involves the development of important skills:

- Using language in conversation.
- Listening and responding to stories read aloud.
- Recognising and naming the letters of the alphabet and the sounds that they make.
- Reading often so that recognition and spelling of words becomes automatic and easy.
- Learning and using new words and developing skills to work out what they mean in the context of a sentence or paragraph.
- Understanding what is read.

#### Here are some ways you can help your child:

1) Make time to read regularly with your child and hear them read. Encourage them to share reading with friends, grandparents, brothers, sisters and other

family members. Try to provide a peaceful atmosphere with no distractions so that children can fully enjoy listening to, or reading, a book.

2)Model a love of reading with your child – let children see that you value books. Seeing adults enjoying reading from books, newspapers, magazines, recipes or menus will make children want to read themselves.

3)Keep books safe and encourage children to have a special place where their books can be stored. Show them how to turn pages carefully.

4)Children learn from the world around them and from seeing labels, notices and signs which are written in print. Encourage children to look for words they know all around them!

5)Practice the sounds of language – read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems and songs.

Play simple word games e.g. How many words can you make up that sound like the word 'cat'?

6)Help your child take spoken words apart and put them back together. Help your child separate the sounds in words, listen for the beginning and ending sounds and put separate sounds together.

7)Let children have time to attempt words that they are unsure about before you give them the word. Help them to get the initial sound or try breaking the word into smaller sections. If your child is struggling, give them the word but encourage them to re-read the sentence correctly to reinforce the new word they have learnt and hear themselves successfully reading the sentence.

8)Practise the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them! Practise the sounds that letters make too (e.g. fffff is the sound for the letter eff)

9)You could reinforce the letters and sounds your child is learning by cutting out letters, and pictures of things that begin with that letter, from magazines or comics and create a collage. Try drawing them in soil, sand, with paint and then saying the sound the letter makes.

10)Share stories with your child and re-read familiar books. Children learn the patterns of language from hearing stories and need practice in reading

comfortably and with expression using books they know. They may even enjoy reading the story to younger sibling or friend.

11a)Join your local library – children can have access to hundreds of good quality books, both fiction and nonfiction... and its free!

11b) If you would like access to some fantastic ebooks, try visiting [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) . There are over **250 free books** for parents / carers to read with their child at home, with lots of ideas on how to support your child with reading.

12)Play 'I Spy' – It's a good way of showing that every word begins with a letter. You can also play games where children identify the odd one out in a list like cat, mat, dot, rat.

13)Play card games like Bingo, Memory cards, Snap and Go Fish.

14)Write labels under pictures or objects to show them that words belong to things.

15)Model reading from left to right by pointing to words with your finger, then theirs.

16)Talk to your child about what is going on in a book or story. Ask questions such as:

- Which character did you like best? Why?
- Why was the King upset?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How did the girl feel at the end of the story?

Encourage children to use the pictures to support them and discuss new words.

17)Keep in touch with the school and let us know if books need to be changed or you feel your child is finding the level of books they have been given, or areas of their reading, difficult. Please also feel free to share any reading successes or areas of reading interest that your child really enjoys, with us.

18)If English is not your family's first language, look for books that are printed in a dual language. You can talk about books or stories in any language.

19)The 100 Key Words are the words that your child will come across regularly in both their reading and writing, and includes some of the 'tricky words' that are difficult to sound phonetically or are frequently misread or misspelt.

Practise the 100 Key Words by making 'Flash cards'.

How many words can you read in a minute?

Challenge children to find given Key Words in books they are reading.

Make Key Words out of playdough or letters made from a variety of fabrics or materials.

20)Praise your child for trying hard with their reading. Celebrate their successes, but let them know that it is all right to make mistakes!

**Reading is one of the most valuable and rewarding skills your child will learn.** We believe that children who read regularly to an adult at home, make greater and quicker progress in the development of their reading and comprehension skills and therefore any time you can spend hearing your child read will provide valuable support to their learning.

Speak to your child's teacher if you want any book recommendations.

**Useful websites:**

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-owl/top-tips--3>

Booklists for ideas about what to read

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/booklists/>

<http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

Children's newspaper

<http://www.firstnews.co.uk/the-newspaper>

Range of ideas for reading

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

[www.educationcity.com](http://www.educationcity.com)

Cheap books

[www.bookpeople.co.uk](http://www.bookpeople.co.uk)