

What is important when you share a reading book with your child?

- Read aloud to your child. It's a great opportunity for you and your child to talk, to be close and share a few laughs. Bed time story is a MUST! Bedtime stories create a feeling of security and love.
- Encourage your child to read aloud to you (reading scheme books from school). Be positive and patient about your child's reading - even when they are being very slow or are struggling. The most important thing you can do to support your child's reading is to offer encouragement and patience. Remember to choose the time when your child is not tired.
- Make sure your child has a cosy, comfortable place in which to read: somewhere with no noisy distractions – and no television.
- Help your child to choose books that he or she will find really interesting. If he or she is a football fanatic, find a book, poem, comic or magazine which is all about their favourite sport.
- Make sure there are plenty of books at home. Borrow them free of charge from the school library or from your local public library; buy second-hand books from charity shops and car boot sales; give your child a book on birthdays.
- Don't worry if your child wants to read the same book over and over again, or if your child chooses a book which seems to be too easy or too young for him or her. The most important thing is that your child enjoys reading. Children will move on to more difficult books when they are ready.
- If your child picks a book that is too hard, you could read part of it and talk about the ideas and pictures.
- If English is not the language your family speaks at home, enjoy sharing books written in your home language. It's great for children to hear stories and rhymes in the language that is spoken at home. Children are much better than adults at dealing with two languages.
- Read signs when you are out and about and remember that all children learn to read at different rates.
- Ask your child about what he or she is reading at school. Encourage your child to talk about books they've enjoyed at school.



Some tips for reading a scheme book from school (home-learning reading):

- Point to and read the title; predict the content of the book from the front cover illustration. Name things pointing to the pictures.
- Talk together about what is happening in the pictures **before** your child reads text-this will help your child make sense of the story; picture clues are a significant part of the reading journey.
- Point to the words as you are reading. Discuss and elaborate on the meaning of new words. See words in context.
- Ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- You can practise key words from the story by writing them down and making sentences together (Perhaps, you could have a special notebook for it).
- Help your child bring the book to life- your child could draw pictures of favourite parts of the story, add additional characters, change the setting etc. Make up your own story.
- Help your child to change the ending of the story and to write it down together.
- Help your child to review the book/story and tell you what they liked about it (star rating).

Obviously, the more children are read to by you and the more they practise reading together with you, the quicker they will become competent readers. Your involvement in your child's learning is vital, and we ask that whenever possible you take time to encourage them to read at home. It's good if your child sees you reading as well-anything from books, letters and e-mails to recipes, newspapers and magazines.

Thank you

The Reception Team