

Supporting Reading at Home.

A Guide for Parents



St. Andrew's C of E Primary School
One Family, Learning Together

St Andrew's CE Primary- a school family where everyone thrives in every way.

Supporting Reading at Home.

Research shows that reading to your child is the single most important thing you can do to help their education.

In order to become lifelong readers and develop a love of reading, children must first of all achieve reading fluency. Once they become fluent readers a whole world is unlocked for them.

What is reading fluency?

Fluency is defined as the ability to **read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression**. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to *read fluently* whether they are reading aloud or silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers read in phrases and add intonation appropriately. Their reading is smooth and has expression. Fluent readers are no longer 'decoding' each word they encounter. They have developed the knowledge and skills to recognise words automatically, accurately and quickly. This means that the reader can focus on the higher-order reading goals.

Supporting early readers in developing reading fluency.

Your child's home reading book will only contain words with the phonemes that they have already been taught in school and are therefore decodable for you child.

If your child becomes stuck on a word, encourage them to **sound out** the word by breaking it down into the **phonemes**. For example, a word such as ladder would be broken down into l/a/dd/er. Once your child has broken the word into sounds then encourage them to **blend the sounds** together to make the word. It is important that children use their phonics to make sense of the text rather than using picture cues to help 'guess' the word.

Reading a book 3 times will help your child to develop their fluency as each time the children will become more familiar with the word and read more fluently and appropriate expression and intonation.

Supporting my child once they are confident readers

Continued support with children's home reading remains a crucially important way to support their learning. Reading books together, reading to your child, hearing them read, discussing reading technique, stories, poems and non-fiction texts are all key ways to help your child to develop into an able and accomplished reader and writer.

Comprehension:

One of the most important parts of reading is comprehension. If a child decodes fluently, but does not fully understand the story or text, then they struggle to enjoy or appreciate books. It is therefore essential that children have the opportunity to discuss what they are reading. In school we use VIPERS question stems to support children in their reading comprehension. Please see the booklet for your guide to different comprehension questions that you could ask your child when sharing a book together.

Top Tips for Reading at Home:

- ❖ Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't. Our lives are busy but even 5 minutes built into your daily routine is better than nothing. Every little you do builds up and is valuable for your child.
- ❖ Keep sessions relaxed - find a comfortable place where you and your child can settle down
- ❖ Give lots of praise, progress may not always be fast - children do not always find the skill of reading and understanding easy to grasp
- ❖ Talk about the book before you begin to read - look at the front cover, and the pictures (if any) and ask your child to think about or even guess what the book may be about.
- ❖ Ask questions to check your child's understanding e.g. What might happen next? Why did something happen?
- ❖ Talk about the book afterwards - did your child enjoy it? Why? What was the best bit?

- ❖ If your child struggles over a particular word, encourage them to break the word into sounds and then blend the sounds together
- ❖ Don't give up on the bedtime story, even if your child is a good reader. The more stories and books your child hears, the more they will want to read.
- ❖ Be a good model for your children - let them see you reading - anything and everything - newspapers, magazines, catalogues, books etc. - let them know that reading is a valuable skill.
- ❖ Telling them one thing you really enjoy about listening to them read.
- ❖ Visit the library, share and enjoy stories together.

