



Supporting reading at home in Reception

Reason why you should read with your child.

- Expands vocabulary. The more children read the more words they learn. This will help them with their writing as they move through school.
- Teaches social values. Children can learn from the way that characters in stories treat one another.
- Helps build empathy. Story books help children imagine what it must be like to be someone else.
- Encourages curiosity. Every time they turn the page, there's something new to see or imagine.
- Encourages independence. Once children learn to read, they can start reading books by themselves.
- Your child will become a reader for life.
- Teaches about the world around us.

How to encourage your child to read

- Read yourself. Set a good example by sharing your reading. Let your child see that you value books.
- Be enthusiastic about the books your child brings home from school.
- Take care of books. Make your child a special place to keep their books in. Show them how to turn the pages. Keep school books in school bags.
- Visit the library. It's free to join. All libraries have children's sections. Lots of libraries have regular story telling sessions.
- Point out words all around you. Print is everywhere. Help your child read the words around them; on food packets, on buses, in newspapers, at the supermarket, in the doctors.
- Make time to read. Read a bedtime story every night, children love to hear the same story over and over again; this is okay and good for them.
- Encourage children to share their books with grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles.
- Keep in touch with school. Make sure you complete the reading diary and let teachers know if you have read a really good book.
- Be patient and unhurried. Reading a book is a lovely time to spend together.

How to help with reading

- Be patient. Praise your child for trying hard. Let them know it's alright to make mistakes.
- Give them time. Give your child about 10 seconds to have a go at an unfamiliar word. Let them make a guess before you tell them. Encourage them to get the first letter sound or try breaking the word up into smaller sections.
- Turn off the TV. A quiet space makes it easier for your child to concentrate.
- Point at the words with a finger. Encourage them to track the words with their finger.
- Don't make them try too hard. If your child is becoming distressed, stop.
- Ask lots of questions about the story. Check they understand the story by asking lots of questions about what happens. Use the pictures to explain what is happening.
- Don't read for too long. A quality 10 minutes is sufficient.
- Read favourite stories over and over again.

