

Reading with your child in the Early Years

When your child receives their first school reading book there are lots of ways you can support them in helping them to enjoy reading the story with you.

Try to allow time to read with your child daily, in a calm and comfortable environment.

Encourage your child to hold the book themselves, turn the pages and use their finger to follow the text if they'd like to.

Talk about the story before, during and after reading.

You could ask questions like

- What can you see in the picture/s?
- What do you think is happening?
- What do you think might happen next?
- Who is/was your favourite character? Why?
- What happened at the beginning / end?
- Did you enjoy the story? Why?

It is really important to encourage and praise your child when they are reading. Praise them for their effort, even if they need prompts to help them.

If your child is looking for your help when reading then you can support them in many ways

- Encourage them to use their sound knowledge to sound out the word and then blend it together. E.g. c-a-t blended together makes the word 'cat'. (You could sound out the word and encourage them to blend this if they are struggling)
- Use the pictures to help them to work out the text.
- Break unfamiliar words down into smaller parts e.g. u-p-s-e-t = up - set = upset.

When you have read with your child, please add a short comment in their reading diary which details what you have read, what you have talked about and anything that your child may have needed support with.

Don't be afraid to re-read the same story several times. Re-reading a story will help to develop both reading and comprehension skills.

- Are there any unfamiliar words that you can talk about to develop their understanding?
- Can they retell the story in the right order?
- Can they discuss their favourite part and why?
- Can they relate to the story in any way?

Please also continue to use the individual letter sound cards to create words for your child to read by blending these sounds together. Practicing these blending skills will encourage your child to become a more confident and fluent reader.

If you have any questions, please talk to your child's class teacher.

The Reception team