SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO READ & PROMOTING A LOVE OF READING

Why is Reading Important?

We really want to share some of the reasons to why reading is so important and the impact that reading for pleasure can have on children's outcomes;

- **Reading for Pleasure Improves Wellbeing**
  The National Literacy Trust found that children who enjoy reading and who think positively about reading have, on average, *higher mental wellbeing* scores compared to their peers who don't enjoy reading at all and who hold negative attitudes towards reading.

- **Reading for Pleasure Promotes Social Inclusion**
  The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development) found that reading and enjoyment is more important for *children's educational success* than their family's socio-economic status.

- **Reading for Pleasure Promotes Empathy**
  The DfE (Department for Education) found that reading for pleasure promotes general knowledge, *a better understanding of other cultures, community participation and a greater insight into human nature and decision making*.

- **Reading for Pleasure Leads to Increased Attainment**
  The IoE (Institute of Education) found that children who read for pleasure are likely to do *significantly better at school than their peers in maths, vocabulary and spelling.*



Young people who enjoy reading very much are nearly five times as likely to read above the expected level for their age compared with young people who do not enjoy reading at all.

***Children's and Young People's Reading Today*, National Literacy Trust, 2012**[1]

Other benefits include an increased breadth of vocabulary, pleasure in reading in later life, a better understanding of other cultures, better general knowledge and even 'a greater insight into human nature'.

***Reading for Pleasure: A research overview*, National Literacy Trust, 2006**



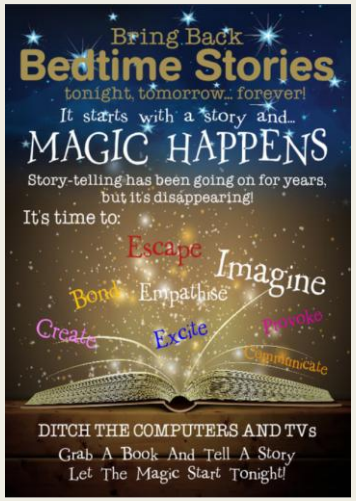
Promoting a Love of Reading

The most important step to helping your child become a reader is to promote a love of reading. Once children see the purpose and enjoyment that reading brings, their enthusiasm to read themselves will grow.

Here are some ideas to help you help your child develop a love of reading;

- **Expose your child to a variety of books and authors**
  Once your child finds the types of books that interest them, it will spark more enthusiasm to want to read! ☺
- **Create a Reading Den or Nook in your home**
  Just by creating an engaging environment to share a story in can boost your child's enthusiasm to read a book!
- **Visit your local library**
  By dedicating some time to visit your local library, you are showing your child that reading is important. This is the perfect place to explore different types of books to see what your child really enjoys. Even better, find yourself a new book there too! Showing your child that you read is a super way to encourage them to want to read too!





- **Reading stories at bedtime**
  Some evidence shows that less than a third of children have stories read to them at bedtime and over 50% of children go to bed with their tablet or watching TV. Instead, try finishing your day by getting snuggled up together and sharing a story.

- **Show the value of reading in every day life**
  By showing children all of the different things that you read in a day, such as text messages, road signs, menus, instructions, magazines, your own reading book, letters in the post, shopping lists etc. you are showing children the value and importance of reading.

- **Read again and again**
  Sometimes we can be tempted to encourage children to choose a different book to read if they are continuing to choose the same one over and over again. But this is likely because they feel confident with this book and have found a story that they really enjoy! Reading stories over and over again will help to build reading fluency, confidence and will help with language learning.

- **Take reading anywhere and everywhere!**
  Try taking a story with you in the car, bringing one along to a doctor's appointment for whilst you wait in the waiting room, take one with you on your next walk to enjoy outdoors. Reading can be taken anywhere! ☺

- **Get creative with reading!**
  There are lots of resources that you can buy or create to make reading even more exciting. You can make story stones or story spoons of the characters from your child's favouriute story or buy puppets or small role play resources. Giving your child the opportunity to play with the story with make them enjoy it even more! ☺



- **Use technology to encourage a love of reading**
  We all know that any type of learning on an electronic device is like learning in disguise for children! So, why not make the most of it to encourage a love of reading? Downloading apps such as Reading Eggs and using websites such as Cbeebies Storytime are super!

Reading and Home Learning



Providing home learning for your child during lockdown can feel totally overwhelming.

We understand your worries and concerns whilst delivering learning to your child at home. It can be so easy to get lost in the learning that your teachers are providing for your children whilst they are at home.

We spend years sharing and enjoying stories with our children during their early years. But once our children start school, we can sometimes feel like other learning becomes more important. All of those positive behaviours towards reading that you created before your child started school are crucial, and we really want this to continue!

So, if home learning is becoming overwhelming, or your child is needing a break away, then reading is the perfect go-to.

Put the fun back into reading by dropping everything and snuggling up with a book!

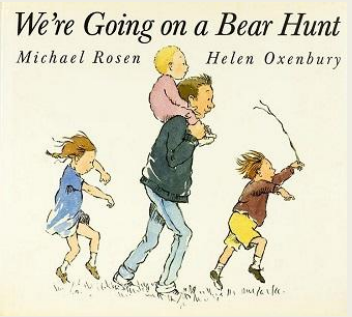
The Importance of Questioning



Using questioning techniques before and after sharing a story is vitally important for developing children's communication and language skills. Notice how I said 'before' and 'after'. Sometimes, asking lots of questions during the story can take away the enjoyment for the child.

Books are an excellent way of introducing new vocabulary and questioning can develop and embed this vocabulary.

We like to use different questioning frameworks to help us to narrow down the questions that we are asking and to ensure that they are of a high quality. By using one of the following questioning frameworks and working together with your child to discuss the story and answer the questions (also known as sustained shared thinking), you will know that you are asking a broad range of high quality questions which will be developing and extending your child's thinking.



CROWD Questioning

Let's pretend that we have just read 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Here are some examples of questions that you could ask, following the CROWD questioning framework;

Completion – ask your child to complete your sentence.
'Can you finish my sentence? We're going on a _____!'

Recall – ask your child about something that you have just read.
'What was the first problem that the family came across?'

Open-ended Questions – these types of questions work really well if you focus on the illustrations
'What was the grass like?'

Wh Questions – these are your typical who, what, where, when, why and how questions. 'What' questions particularly can be used really well to develop vocabulary.
'What does 'swishy swashy' mean?

Distancing – this is an opportunity for you to ask questions that link the book to their real life experiences and have a really good discussion about it.
'Remember when we went on a walk through the woods? What did we find on our walk?'

How You Can Help New and Low Confidence Readers



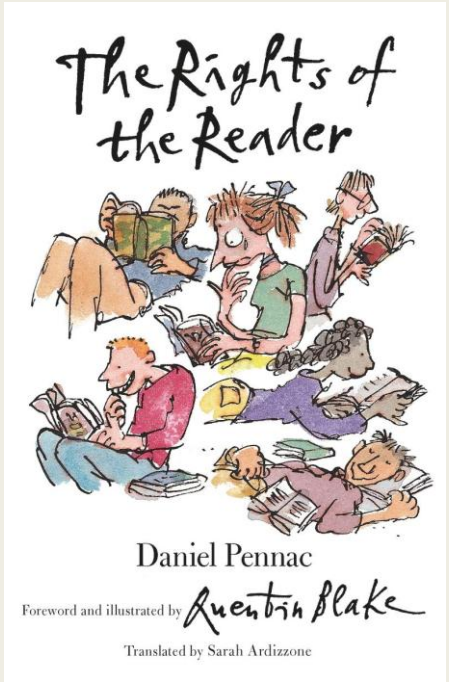
If your child is new to reading or has found learning to read a little tricky, you might find that asking them to read can be a challenge. Here are some top tips to help you to support your child who might be finding the journey to reading a little tricky;

- **Keep anxiety levels down**
  It is important that the time taken to read a story is enjoyable. If your child is not in the right frame of mind to read that day, then make a deal to help them to feel more at ease! You could agree to read a page each, you could read their book to them or you could simply just share one of their own stories from their collection at home instead.
- **Allow them the time to look at the illustrations on the page (they're not cheating)**
  If your child enjoys looking at the illustrations on the page then let them. Allow them to start reading when they are ready. The pictures on each page give clues to what is happening and can support your child's reading.
- **Know what to do to help your child when they get stuck**
  Phonics, phonics and more phonics! We are a Read, Write, Inc. school and have lots of resources to help you help your child with their phonic knowledge. Just ask your teacher for some support or check out the RWI website for tips and tricks to support your child ☺
  http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/
  https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/

The Rights of the Reader

This PowerPoint has aimed to give you strategies to support your child's reading and given ideas that can promote a love of reading too. However, more often than not, the best way to encourage learning is to not worry about methods or rules. So with that in mind, here are 'The Ten Invoilable Rights of a Reader;

1. The right not to read
2. The right to skip pages
3. The right not to finish a book
4. The right not to re-read
5. The right to read anything
6. The right to read for the instant satisfaction of our feelings
7. The right to read anywhere
8. The right to browse
9. The right to read out loud
10. The right to remain silent (not to have to comment on what has been read)



More Helpful Links to Support Reading

- The Book Trust are providing free online storybooks and games. If your device is unable to play the videos via the Book Trust website, then their storytime playlist can also be found on their YouTube channel ☺
https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/
- Mrs Meehan has been working hard to record some lovely reading videos for you to enjoy at home. They can be found on her YouTube channel, Pixie Dust Teaching or on our school website ☺
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv4-osUoDtb4tbVu95tQblQ/videos
https://www.stalyhill-inf.tameside.sch.uk/storytime-all-year-groups/
- Cbeebies provide free access to their Bedtime Stories via BBCiPlayer or YouTube.
Follow the link to watch a range of celebrities read their favourite story ☺
https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00jdlm2/cbeebies-bedtime-stories
- Storyline Online also provide free story videos read by celebrities ☺
https://www.storylineonline.net/
- Ruth Miskin Parents' Page:
http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/
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