

Frequently asked Questions

My child seems to be remembering the book off by heart. Is this a problem?

They probably are, but this is an important step in learning to read. We deliberately choose books with patterned language so that children can predict, and achieve success at an early age. In time, children will begin to recognise words and use their letter sounds to sound out unfamiliar words rather than guess them.

You could ask children to find certain words after reading the book. i.e. "Can you find **the**?"

How often should my child change their reading book?

Your child is encouraged to change their book as often as they want to. Sometimes it is a good idea to read the book more than once. This helps them to get to recognise the tricky words, and gives them opportunities to practise making the reading sound good, like natural speech.

Also if it is a long book, children would not be expected to read it all at once, but over several days.

If your child keeps forgetting to change their book though, pop in before or after school to change it.

When can my child move up a level?

Your child's teacher will be carefully monitoring the level of book your child takes home but please feel free to see the teacher and discuss this.

How much help should I give my child when they are reading?

At first, before they read a new book, look through it with them, read the blurb on the back, talk about the pictures and help them to predict what the book is about. Talk about any characters and their names. If it is a non-fiction book, make sure your child knows any unfamiliar words or new vocabulary before they read the book.

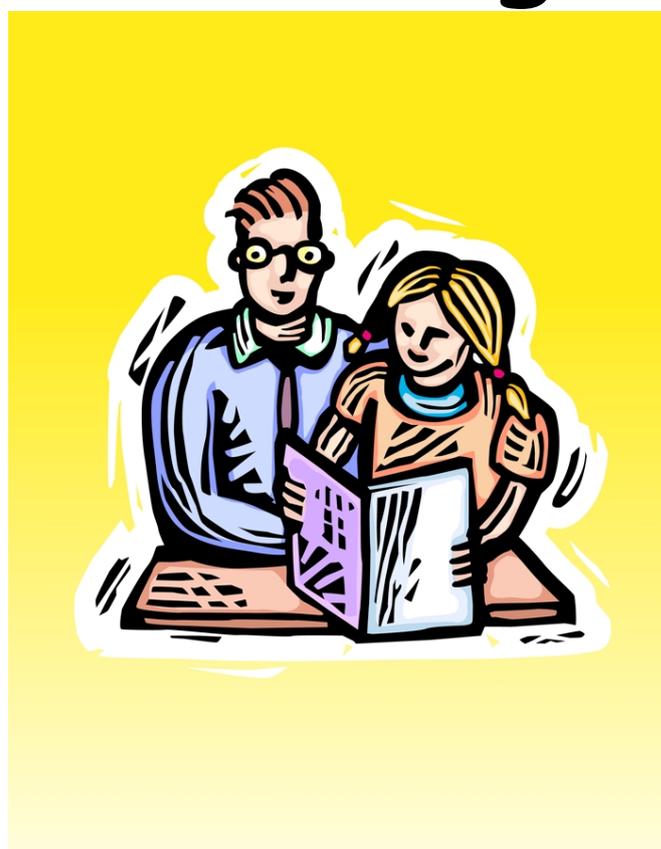
While they are reading, let them take over, only helping when they are struggling. Try and prompt them to solve the problem on their own i.e. 'What would make sense?' 'Can you see part of that word that you know?' 'What can you see that might help you?' If they are really stuck, tell them what the word is.

My child doesn't want to read.

This is tricky, but persuasion and rewards can often work. Get really excited about the book they have brought home! Make sure that the TV and computer are turned off. Promise them a simple reward after they have read. Limit the time that they will be reading i.e. 5 to 10 minutes. Try and find some books that they really enjoy and want to re-read, with subjects that interest them.

If nothing works, you really do need to discuss this with your child's teacher and see what other help is available.

Supporting Early Reading



A guide for parents
Produced by

Air Balloon Hill Primary School



How to Help Your Child Become a Better Reader.

Introduction

We believe that reading is the key to successful learning in all areas of the curriculum. Our aim is for children to be able to read for information and for pleasure.

To encourage children to become independent readers, we use a range of activities and pupils receive individual, small and class group tuition. We would really appreciate your co-operation and support in encouraging your child to become a better reader. This leaflet gives some practical ideas and explains how you can help your child.

How Children Learn to Read

Learning to read is like trying to crack a code. Children should be encouraged to look for different clues to help them understand what they are reading. Learning individual words is important but they are really aiming to work out the whole message.



How can you help?

When you hear your child read encourage them to use the following strategies to work words out:

- Pictures
- Meaning of the text
- Length of the word
- Word knowledge
- Sounding words out

It is important not to confuse your child so concentrate on developing a few skills at a time. You might say: "Remember to use the pictures as clues."



Reading Practice

The aim is to make reading an enjoyable experience, but consistency is essential if progress is to be made. Try to:

- Practise regularly
- Set aside a specific time for reading.
- Use a comfortable and quiet area
- Make activities fun and interesting.
- Be encouraging, there is no need to correct every mistake if it still makes sense.



Confidence and Motivation

These can be developed through:

- Re-reading familiar books
- Listening to adults read aloud
- Reading children's own pieces of writing
- Listening to taped stories
- Lots of praise: be specific

Phrases to use

"Well done, you had a go on your own."

"Well done, that sounded really good." If the child is using expression as they read.

"Good try, but did that make sense?"

"Good try, but did that look right?"

"I like how you read that bit again to check it."

**Remember to give lots of praise,
and be specific!**