

Helping your child with Reading at home

Research proves that children who enjoy reading do better at school in all subjects. Reading together increases literacy skills and does so much more - it helps to build a strong and loving relationship with your child. And it's never too early to start reading with your child!

Set aside some time

Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV / radio / computer.

Ask your child to choose a book

Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters and they are more likely to engage with the book.

Sit close together

Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.

Point to the pictures

If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.

Encourage your child to talk about the book

Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.

And lastly, above all - make it fun!

It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices - children love this!

Please turn over the page to see some questions you may like to ask your child when reading.

Questions to ask your child when reading

Before reading the book:

Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)

What do you think this story will be about?

What might happen in the story?

What do you call the writing on the back of the book? (blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

What is happening in the pictures?

What has happened so far?

Is it what you expected to happen?

What might happen next?

How do you think the story might end?

What sort of character is...? Is s/he friendly, kind, happy, mean...?

At the end of the book:

Did you like the book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons.)

What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it?

What sort of character was..?

Why did that character do...? (give a situation/ event from the story)

What happened in the story?

What was your favourite part? Why?

Please remember to record what you have read and discussed in your child's reading log.

Thank you