

Helping Your Child With Reading



Horspath C.E. Primary

At school your child will be taught to read, understand and discuss texts. He or she will be taught to recognise sounds, decode words, read sight words, decipher unfamiliar text and respond to texts. Your child will read across the curriculum and experience a range and variety of text.

For these skills to be fully embedded and reinforced, reading and conversation around literature must also take place at home. Your role is vital; you are the best role model for your child. Your involvement and support as a parent can influence your child's attitude to and interest in reading.

Regardless of your child's age or ability, it is important to ensure you create a relaxed and happy atmosphere where there are no distractions.

As a parent you will start off reading books to your child and is something that should continue as long as your child is enjoying it (Year 6 children love being read to at school!). You will then move to shared reading with your child. Let your child take control when they feel confident but be ready to take over again when they need support, this will help maintain the flow of the text. Your child will then become more independent and will be ready for you to listen to them read. It is important that you give your child time to correct themselves before you help. Praise for effort is extremely effective.

Your child's reading development is based on a partnership between you, your child and Horspath School. Your child's class teacher is always available to give support.

**Sarah Herring
Literacy subject leader**

Some book questions

- **What do you think the book will be about?**
- **What kind of book do you think this will be?**
- **What did you think this book was going to be about? Were you right?**
- **Have you read any other books? Poems, stories like this one?**
- **Does this book remind you of any other books you have read?**
- **Could this story really happen? If not, why not?**
- **Have you read any other books by the same author?**
- **Who was telling the story? How do you know?**
- **What did the story make you think of? What did it remind you of?**
- **What did you think was going to happen? Why?**
- **Were there parts of the story you particularly liked/ disliked?**
- **What words/ feelings would you use to describe this story/ book?**
- **What pictures did you see in your head?**

How can I help my Child with early reading?

- Read to your child as often as you can.
- Encourage your child to choose the books you read together and help the child to tell the story from pictures in the book.
- Talk about the books you read and the people, things and animals in them.
- Draw attention to the illustrations when reading to your child.
- Select books that describe familiar experiences, concepts and objects as well as fairy tales and fantasy stories.
- Make sure your child sees members of the family reading.
- Keep audiotapes of favourite stories and songs in the car to play on long journeys.
- Help your child to recognise his/her own name. Write simple dedications inside the child's own books and encourage them to start building their own book collection.
- Teach your child nursery rhymes and songs.
- Select books that use repetition to capture the rhythm of language e.g. *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.
- Tell stories on the way to the shop, at bath time, at bedtime.
- Place labels around your home, e.g. 'These are Kim's favourite books'.
- Ensure your child can see the pictures and writing.
- Let the child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Encourage the child to join in and 'read' too.
- Leave the book handy for private readings to teddy.
- Help your child to tell the story from the pictures in the book.
- Talk about everyday print, e.g. "We are going in here to get a hamburger. See the sign. It says 'Harry's Hamburgers'."

- Sometimes point to the words as you read.
- Talk about your plans e.g. 'Today I am going to make a cake, let's look at the recipe.'
- Before beginning to read, settle your child down and talk a little about the book, e.g. 'This looks as if it's going to be a funny story'
- Accept and praise your child's attempts to read.



How can I help my Child with with shared reading?

- Read to your child whenever you can. Now and again ask a few 'why' questions about the story as you read.
- Help your child tell stories from pictures in the book.
- Talk about the characters, plots and settings of stories.
- Discuss information gleaned from factual books.
- Use your local library. Choose books together.
- Talk about reading the newspaper, magazines and books.
- Read books of children's poetry with your child.
- Borrow 'book and tape' sets from the library.
- Compare events and people in books with your own lives.
- Talk about the pictures when reading to your child.
- Tell stories and sing songs in the car, at bath time and bedtime.
- Take books with you when visiting.
- Draw attention to print on packages, jars, e.g. 'Here is the Readybrek. This says Readybrek'. Point to print.
- Let your child 'read' to you, his or her toys or even to the cat!
- Encourage the child to join in when reading familiar stories.
- Talk about everyday print. Discuss advertisements and talk about the effect they have on you.
- Point out interesting or long words in books.
- Accept your child's efforts without criticism. Always encourage and praise his or her efforts.
- Write your child's name while he or she watches when labelling lunch box etc.

- Read birthday cards with your child, pointing to the words.
- Write shopping lists in front of your child and talk about what you are doing.
- Set up a home message board and write a message every day, e.g. 'Today we are going to Grandma's.'
- Leave plenty of scrap paper, pencils and crayons on the child's table or desk. Give him or her old diaries or inexpensive notebooks to use.
- Encourage your child to write messages for different family members.
- Encourage your child to find words that begin with the same letter as his or her name.
- Recognise letters on car number plates.
- Watch and talk about television programmes you watch with your child.
- Encourage your child to look at the title and cover of a book and guess what it may be about.
- Encourage your child to tell the story from the pictures in the book.
- When they are ready listen to your child read as much as you can and encourage them to talk about what they have read.



How can I help my Child with independent reading?

- Although your child is becoming more independent, listen to him or her read as much as you can and encourage discussion. Can they explain the main points of what they have read? Can they identify the words and phrases that provoke reaction? What do they like about the text? What don't they like and why?
- Recognise and be proud of your child's successes in reading.
- Listen to your child read as much as you can and encourage them to talk about what they have read. Encourage discussion about the characters, setting or even predict what might happen next.
- Ensure your child is exposed to a wide range of reading materials, i.e. newspapers, letters, recipes, TV guides, magazines, puzzle books.
- Provide a quiet, well-lit 'study' area where you and your child can experience books together.
- Make sure your child uses the library regularly and if appropriate encourage him or her to take a younger sibling along to model appropriate behaviour.
- Encourage your child to read for different purposes, i.e.
 - Reading biographies.
 - Reading and explaining instructions for using new appliances.
 - Reading interesting articles from the community newspaper.
 - Reading to a younger brother and sister.
 - Reading to find out more information about a topic.
- Take an interest in books written by favourite authors. Talk about them. Give them for presents.
- Encourage your child to talk about books he or she has enjoyed or disliked. Model and encourage thoughtful criticism and comment.
- Support the learning process by guiding and advising. This doesn't mean doing the work for your child. Talking things through is very important.
- Support your child's topic research activities by:

- Taking your child to the local library to find appropriate books.
 - Encouraging your child to jot down key issues about a topic.
 - Helping your child to classify this information.
 - Encouraging your child to explore the topic further by brainstorming topic-related questions using a 'Question Word' framework-'Who', 'How', 'When', 'If', 'Where', 'What' and 'Why'.
 - Encouraging your child to use the following procedures when taking notes, e.g.
 - Short Notes** - key words and phrases with the reference book open.
 - Long Notes** - own sentences with the reference book closed.
- Continue to discuss ideas, statements and underlying beliefs, which are evident in newspapers, books and television programmes.



How can I help my Child with advanced reading?

- Look for opportunities to discuss and share excerpts and ideas from a variety of different reading materials.
- Encourage your child to read or tell stories to younger member of the family. This is a great opportunity to develop story telling skills.
- Value your own reading and be informed by that of your child. Widen each other's horizons.
- Discuss ways in which tasks can be handled. Recall strategies that have been effective in the past.
- Recognise that both you and your child may have quite different ideas about what you want to read and respect choices made. Broaden reading experiences by exchanging books.
- Ensure your child is able to read and use books in a quiet, well-lit study area.

