

HOME READING POLICY

Rationale

Reading is a vital skill that will support children's learning across the whole curriculum. As a school, we will ensure that our children are taught to read with fluency, accuracy and understanding through a variety of discreet and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Above all, we want children in our school to become enthusiastic, independent and reflective readers.

Home Reading

- provides an opportunity to students to improve their reading through daily practice within a positive home environment;
- enables students to experience success and improve their learning;
- promotes positive partnerships with school and home working together for the benefit of our students.

Home Reading Practices and Strategies

Children will be provided with reading books they can read competently and with confidence in order to practise a range of reading behaviours without struggling with the text, the most important of these being comprehension. Many of the books that your child will bring home as a home reader will be books that they will find fairly easy to read. In class, children will read at a higher level of difficulty as specific skills and reading strategies are taught.

Before Reading

Have a 'book look'. Discuss what the book could be about by looking at the cover, the pictures/illustrations and talking about who is in the book and where the story takes place.

Discuss some of the words they might find in the book.

Look for and identify features in the book, such as:

- Book Title and Author
- Pictures and print

During Reading

Look for and identify features in the book, such as:

- Sounds and words, words beginning with a particular sound
- Rhyming words
- Pose "I wonder" questions "I wonder" what will happen next/why they did that etc.

After Reading

Ask your child some questions about the book (or they can ask you).

For example:

- Who is in the story?
- Where did the story take place?
- What part of the story did you like best? Why?
- What happened at the beginning of the story? What happened at the end of the story?
- Did you like the end of the story?
- What do you think would have happened next in the story?
- What would you have done if you were there?

Let's Start

For beginning and struggling readers to make this time enjoyable for both you and your child you could follow these simple steps.

These steps may take one to four nights.

1. Read the story to your child. Pointing to the words as you read.
2. Read the story together with either you or the child or both of you pointing to the words as you read.
3. Read the story taking turns reading a page each.
4. Your child reads the story to you pointing to the words as they go.

Remember to keep it fun and enjoy this time with your child.

The following points will be helpful when reading with your child.

THE 3 PS: PAUSE, PROMPT & PRAISE

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Pause

Give your child time to:

- Think of and try a suitable word;
- Identify and self-correct errors in their reading.

Prompt

Provide suggestions on where to find help (picture, initial sound, reread etc). Ask:

- Does the picture help?
- What would make sense?
- What does it look like?
- What does it start with?

Praise

- Any efforts and attempts made.
- Offer encouragement to try again.
- Always be positive.

More Helpful Hints

- Modelling reading is very important. Whenever possible, read and discuss books with your child.
- Never criticise their choice of book. Children that are learning to read can benefit from reading a familiar text.
- If your child is reluctant to read, share the reading, take it in turns to read a page.
- Be aware of your child's favourite author, sort of books or series e.g. 'Baby-sitter's Club'.
- Make use of book clubs and visit your local library or bookshop together - get the whole family to borrow and read.

READING TO, WITH AND BY

To

Sometimes your child may bring home a text that is too difficult for them to read independently, such as a picture book. This is a good opportunity for you to read the book to your child. Being read to is a vital part of children's reading development. By reading to your child you are:

- modelling an enjoyment in reading
- demonstrating what a fluent reader sounds like
- modelling expressive reading

These are skills that children can learn from hearing others.

With

If the text is one that your child can read parts of, while some parts may be too difficult, this is an opportunity for you to read with your child. You may read parts of the text and allow your child to read parts. You may leave off the end of sentences for your child to read or encourage your child to read familiar words. When reading with your child you are:

- creating an enjoyable shared reading experience
- supporting your child by helping when needed and joining in the experience with them

By

Some texts will be easier for your child to read, and can be read by your child. If your child can read the text independently, this is an opportunity for you to take them a step further with discussion and "book talk". If the text can be read by your child you can:

- celebrate their achievement
- encourage expression – How would that character's voice sound? How could we read the exciting / scary / funny parts?
- discuss the content of the text:
 - What happened in the story?
 - Where could we go to find some more information about that?
 - What did you learn?
 - Why do you think that character did that?
 - Why do you think the author chose that title?
 - How did the illustrations help the story?

The aim of home reading is practise and enjoyment. The time you spend creating an enjoyable experience in which children can practise skills and strategies they have learnt at school is important and appreciated. When your child brings a book home, you may decide if it is something you will read to your child, with your child or that can be read by your child. Above all, make it an enjoyable and positive experience.