



As parents you have an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

### **1. Make reading enjoyable**

Sit somewhere quiet and comfortable with your child. Try not to pressurise them if they are reluctant to read and keep reading sessions to a reasonable time- ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough. If your child loses interest, do something else and come back to the reading later.

### **2. Promote reading skills**

If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'. If your child mispronounces a word, try not interrupt immediately. Instead, allow opportunities for self-correction as this is something we promote in school.

### **3. Be positive**

Your child's reading book should challenge them and help them to develop their reading skills. If your child makes a mistake, try saying 'Let's read it together' rather than 'No, that's wrong'. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise, even for the smallest achievement.

### **4. Regular practice**

Try to read with your child at least every other day. Teachers have limited time to help your child with reading on a 1:1 basis so you can make a real difference to your child's progress, just by reading at home.

### **5. Talk about the books**

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. It is just as important for children to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part etc. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

### **6. Communication**

Your child will have a reading diary which should be completed after you have read with them at home. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and let staff know about any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

### **7. Variety is important**

Remember that children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books to ensure they are competent and confident readers. Encourage your child to read different types of books rather than sticking to one or two series.

**ENJOY YOUR READING!**