

# Reading at Home

## Parent Guide



Reading improves all of a child's literacy skills and can offer them a lifetime of enjoyment and learning.

- Reading with your child at home is a crucially important way to support their learning.
- Children need to read a variety of texts such as stories, reports, information texts, poems, etc. They also love being read to by adults, particularly if you can do the voices! If you show children you enjoy reading it will have a positive impact.
- Make sure your child has a comfortable, quiet place to sit. Distractions such as TV can make it difficult for children to concentrate. Give the book to your child for five minutes so they can look at it alone. This allows the child to investigate and explore the text and pictures independently before

starting to read. Read the title together and ask them to tell you about the story and any questions they may have before beginning. Remember talking about books is as important as reading them. Children need to have enthusiasm for texts so allow them to choose their own from the library as well as their school reading books.

- One of the most important parts of reading is **comprehension**. It is **therefore essential that children have opportunity to discuss what they are reading**. One of the more crucial parts of reading is being able to conclude and infer ideas. Open ended questioning such as; 'why do you think that happened?' or 'what makes you think that?' will help with this. Asking children to tell you why or show you clues in the text/pictures can improve their inference skills



## Suggested questions:



- Why did you choose this book? Did you know anything about this book before you started reading it? What do you think about it now you have read some? Is it how you imagined it would be? Why/why not?
- Could you tell me what's happened so far (fiction) or what this book is about (non-fiction)? If non-fiction, can you tell me some facts you have learnt?
- What has been the most exciting part? Why?
- What do you think that word means? Why do you think that/ how do you know that?
- Do you know any other words the author could have used that mean the same sort of thing?
- Can you tell me what has happened on this page?
- Why do you think X(a character) did that? What would you do if that happened to you? Why?

- How could we describe that character? What are they like? How do we know that from what they say and do?
- How you think x (a character) is feeling at the moment? Why?
- Why you think Y (an event) happened?
- What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- Did you enjoy the book? Why? Why not?
- What was your favourite/ least favourite part?

