

Taking an active interest in your child's learning is one of the best ways you can help your child to do better in school and in life. Learning is not just about what happens in school. Children are learning all the time through what they see, hear and do.

*A little reading goes a long way!*

- Remember: a good 10 minutes is much better than a difficult half hour!
- Plan a quality, quiet time to read together.
- Children should also aim to read independently throughout the week.
- Reading isn't always books – magazines, websites and comics are also good ways of engaging reluctant readers.

### Strategies and Reading Behaviours

In school children are taught a range of strategies they can use to help them work out unknown words.

For example:

- **Phonics!** If they can sound the word out using the phonics they know then encourage this as the first strategy. This includes breaking the word down into smaller chunks to help sound them out.
- Uses the picture to aid comprehension (it is allowed!)
- Predict what the word could mean from the context that it is in.

At Key Stage 2, we would expect the children to have developed their reading to a stage where they can include a range of strategies:

- Using punctuation for expression and meaning.
- Skimming ahead to alter tone of voice when reading aloud.
- Search for information explicitly and implicitly stated.
- Read fluently with minor errors, only with unknown words.
- Use root words to help determine meaning of unknown or larger words.

### Reading with your child

Book Introduction: Spend time introducing the book (see Questions to help you get more from your child's reading book sheet).

Strategy Check: Ask your child "What can we do if we get stuck on a word?" Listing the strategies refreshes your child's memory and gives them the confidence to tackle a new word.

Independent reading: During this time try to remind your child of strategies rather than giving unknown words/meaning of words.

Returning to text for questioning: (See Questions to help you get more from your child's reading book). This is an important part of the reading session as it enables you to see if they have understood what they have read. More confident readers will also be able to return to the text to find out answers to questions.

## Important point to remember

- Allow your child to read to the end of a sentence/paragraph without interrupting.
- Alternate saying well done or that was good by telling your child what was good.
- Give children strategies to help with comprehending unknown words (use a dictionary or looking for context clues).
- Alternate the strategies you suggest rather than giving the same strategy prompts.
- Children will expand their vocabulary when words are explained and used in context.
- Try to encourage children to ask if they are unsure rather than 'skipping' words that they do not understand.

Remember, we all learn more when we enjoy what we are learning!



## Questions

These are some examples of questions that you can ask your children to help them with their understanding/appreciation of a text.

<u>Book introduction</u>	<u>Understanding what you have read</u>	<u>Recalling information from the book</u>
<p>Who is the author?</p> <p>What can you see on the front cover?</p> <p>What do you think this book is going to be about?</p> <p>Does the blurb give us any more clues?</p> <p>Who do you think the characters are going to be?</p> <p>Are there any pictures which help you?</p>	<p>What do you think is happening here?</p> <p>What happened in the story?</p> <p>What might this mean?</p> <p>Which part of the story best describes the...?</p> <p>Which words or phrases do this?</p> <p>What part of the story do you like the best?</p> <p>Can you give me a quick summary of this paragraph/chapter?</p>	<p>Where does the story take place?</p> <p>What did he/she/it look like?</p> <p>Who was he/she/it?</p> <p>Where did he/she/it live?</p> <p>Who are the characters in the book?</p> <p>What does this word mean?</p>
<p><u>Giving reasons</u></p> <p>What makes you think that?</p> <p>How do you feel about?</p> <p>Can you explain why?</p> <p>I wonder why the author...?</p> <p>Which words has the author used to show that this character is funny/naughty/mean/kind?</p> <p>Are there words that make you feel a certain way? Why?</p>	<p><u>Discussing the story</u></p> <p>Could this book be better?</p> <p>Is it as good as?</p> <p>Which did you prefer? Why?</p> <p>Who was your favourite character?</p> <p>Which was your favourite part of the story?</p> <p>Why do you think they did this/that?</p>	