

Reading

Reading with your KS2 child



Why do I need to read with my child now that they can read for themselves?

Even though your child may now be a fluent reader, it is still important to hear them read aloud regularly. At Key Stage 2 we encourage all our parents/carers to hear their children read at least three times a week. By continuing to actively share your child's reading you are giving it status and importance. Although your child is probably well beyond the 'sounding out stage' they still need your support to continue to develop enjoyment and increase their understanding of more challenging texts. In school, your child will be presented with texts which are increasingly more difficult. In reading for pleasure, they should also be choosing material which stretches and broadens their reading. This may mean that sometimes they do not fully understand all that they are reading. This is where your child will benefit from your support. You are in a position to help overcome any misunderstandings by talking about what they read to you and taking your turn to read aloud. It is a good idea to share reading aloud as you can model pace, expression and fluency for your child.

Children should bring their reading books in to school every day so that they can read at school independently and so that teachers, teaching assistants or volunteers can listen to your child read whenever possible.

How can you help your child?

- Try to listen to your child read regularly. 15-20 minutes four times a week is much better than longer sessions once a week.
- Find a quiet place to share books where you can be comfortable.
 - Talk about the book. The next page has a list of suggested questions and ideas to encourage your child to talk about the book.
 - Ask questions which encourage your child to give their own opinions for example: Do you agree with this/the author's opinion? How do you feel about this topic? Why? What do you think about/is your opinion of...? Can you support your view with evidence from the text?
 - Encourage your child to read a range of texts such as newspapers, comics, poetry, non-fiction, etc.
- Share a book with your child. This may involve you reading to them or reading and talking together about the book.
- Play word games to improve vocabulary.
 - Encourage children to read a series of books from a favourite author or books on topics of interests, especially to keep reluctant readers interested and reading.

Questions you can ask to help your child develop their skills and get the most from their reading

Fiction (Novels/Stories)

Who was the character that...?

Show me in the text where you found...?

What is happening at this point/in this part of the story?

Why was...important in this story?

Tell me about what sort of character/person... was from the things they did/said in the story.

What do you think...thoughts were at this point in the story/play?

If you were going to interview one of the characters, which questions would you ask and why?

How did one of the characters change their ideas/ attitudes during the story/play?

What was it that brought about this change?

What do you think would have happened if...?

Why is ... so important?

If...had not done..., how might this have changed other events in the story?

What is/are the main event(s) that happen(s) in this/ each paragraph?

How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/sad/adventurous/clever/frightening/ excited/disappointed, etc?

Which part of the story best describes the setting/ characters/action? Which words and /or phrases do this?

Find some words or phrases that show us that this character is special/helpful/adventurous/ unsure/worried, etc.

How did the story make you feel?

Why did it make you feel like this? Why do you think the author chose this particular setting for this story?

Non fiction

Where can you find an important piece of information about ...?

Find two pieces of information that tell you about ...?

What does this part of the text tell us about?

Which part of the text tells us about ...?

How does this text layout help the reader?

How does (a diagram/picture/caption) help you to understand the information on this/these pages?

What is the purpose of the list/diagram/caption/ sub-headings in this text?

Find something that is not a fact but the author's opinion.

Reading Stamina

Reading stamina is a child's ability to focus and read independently for long periods of time without being distracted. For children who lack stamina, reading is a frustrating and unpleasant experience, so they tend to read as little as possible. However, today, reading is an important life skill needed for school success, as well as for the joy that being able to lose oneself in a book can bring.

You can help your child improve their reading stamina by providing quiet, comfortable, distraction-free environments for them to settle down with a book and by encouraging them to read for longer periods at a time as they grow up.

You might be surprised by how long some of the texts that your child will face in school tests and assessments will be. In SATS tests particularly, the amount of text that they have to read is quite substantial. Like building any other kind of stamina, the best way to improve is through regular practice. Building reading stamina makes children who can read into real 'readers.' When you can lose yourself in a book, the experience becomes enjoyable. Reading only a few pages at a time does not allow a reader to 'get into the story' properly and really engage with the characters, so children lose interest in the book. Being able to read a few chapters at a time means that readers can be immersed in the story and it makes the process more enjoyable.

Ways to fit reading into a busy family life

- Routine – try to find a regular slot in your day that can be devoted to reading – make it a habit
- Turn off the phones, gadgets and games for a set time each day and read
- Enlist the help of grand parents and other family members and babysitters that you see regularly to read with your children
- Take books with you when you go out, especially when there might be 'waiting time.' Instead of playing on their phones, encourage them to read. When waiting for their sibling to finish football club, read; when waiting in the Doctor's surgery, read.
- Try audio books/downloads (especially in the car). Developing good listening skills while hearing language read to you and enjoying a story helps with reading.
- Read in smaller chunks for a purpose – ask your child to read the ingredients/recipe to you while you are cooking; the instruction manual on a new piece of equipment, the shopping list while you are out ...
- Choose a family 'read aloud' half hour; perhaps before bedtime when the whole family share a couple of chapters of a good book.
- Encourage older siblings to read to/with their younger brothers and sisters
- Have a newspaper and magazines delivered and share snippets of news and interesting articles
- Pop into the library on shopping trips and let your children browse and read as part of the shopping trip
- If your child is a telly addict, swap one programme a day/week for a reading session instead
- Match reading time with gadget time – half an hour reading, then half an hour on your phone/X Box etc.
- Ask the children to read any school letters from their book bags to you while you are cooking tea/driving home ...

Some other tips

- make reading time a relaxed, happy, unrushed experience – think of it as quality one-to-one time with your children, not something to be ‘fitted in’
- choose a time for children to read when they are not too tired. At bedtime, *you* read to them
- read with your child – engage in the story, engage with the characters – do not just ‘hear them read’
- discuss the story and the characters enthusiastically and make your own positive comments about the book
- ask the children questions conversationally – don’t make it an interrogation or test! If they can’t answer your questions, tell them what you think – they will learn to speak about the book from the way you model your comments
- remind the children of strategies: phonics, break it down, read on a bit to find contextual clues, re-read tricky bits ...
- If your child makes a mistake, point out the mistakes gently
- encourage children to re-read favourite books or passages that have been difficult, to gain familiarity, confidence and fluency
- don’t assume that because your child has read the page beautifully, that they have understood what they have read – check their understanding with gentle questions and discussion
- read a range of books, both fiction and non-fiction, to develop wide vocabulary, general and literary knowledge
- Enjoy reading with your children – make it fun – ‘do’ the voices!
- If your child is reluctant to read, talk to the class teacher for advice and suggestions



Talk, talk, talk! Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation and build on words you've talked about in the past.

Have fun with words - a wide vocabulary is crucial for developing good readers. Play word games as a family.

Write, write, write! Ask your child to write out the shopping list, a thank you note to Grandma, a recipe, keep a diary ...