

# Reading

## Reading with your KS1 child



### Reading – How Can I Help My Child?

#### Top Tips for Creating Confident, Happy Readers

1. **Make books and reading a part of family life** – have books, comics, newspapers etc around and visible at home. If books are on the table/by the bed/in the kitchen/on your shelves rather than in a book bag, you and your children are much more likely to think about picking a book up and reading when you have a moment. Let them see you read too!
2. **Make it happy - Get comfy!** – Snuggle up together somewhere warm and cosy: in bed, on the sofa; on a bean bag.
3. **Join your local library** – Get your child a library card. They'll have access to hundreds of fantastic books, and they can choose for themselves.
4. **Some reading is better than none.**
5. **Don't 'hear them read' – engage with them.** Ask questions, give your opinions, model active reading – don't just read the words – discuss what the words, sentences, story is telling you. To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read. Start with 'Where did we get to last time?', 'Can you remember what's happened so far?' and 'What do you think will happen next?' Why do you think the character did that? What do you think of him? That's an unusual word to use about the house – why has the author chosen to use that word? I think that character is jealous because...what do you think?
6. **Take books with you** – Have a book or magazine with you for any time your child has to wait, like at the doctor's or the dentist.
7. **Read favourites again and again** – Encourage your child to re-read the books and poems they love. Re-reading helps to build fluency and confidence.
8. **Enjoy bedtime stories** – Read with your kids at bedtime as often as you can. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with them.
9. **Make the most of rhyme and repetition** – Books and poems with rhymes and repeated words or phrases are great for getting your children to join in and remember the words.
10. **Read to them** – if they are tired, read to them. Encourage them to follow while you read. Make it positive make it fun. Do the 'voices.'

### 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’
- read with no distractions – turn off the T.V. and electronic gadgets
- 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 decoding strategies: phonics, break it down, use the pictures to help, read on a bit, re-read tricky bits ...
- correct your young reader gently. When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he/she overlooked or read incorrectly.
- 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!
- If your child is reluctant to read, talk to the class teacher for advice and suggestions

Further advice and suggestions about reading with your children can be found at the following web site.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/misc/reading-with-your-child/reading-with-your-child-booklet-for-parents.pdf>



**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. A wide vocabulary is crucial for developing good readers.

**Write, write, write!** Ask your child to help you write out the shopping list, a thank you note to Grandma, a recipe... When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he/she is learning at school.