

# Helping Your Child to Read



## **Welcome to our Reading Programme**

Reading is the foundation of all learning.

*At first, we learn to read. Then, we read to learn.*

Parental involvement can contribute so much to children's success with reading. That is why we want you to understand and support what we do and why we are pleased to offer you this little booklet!

## **Library books**

The children will be bringing home a school library book. The aim of these books is for you and your child to share and discuss a story together – not for your child to try and read the words. Help your child to develop early reading skills by talking to them about how to handle and use books. Show them where the writing and pictures are and talk to them about the purpose of the text. Encourage them to predict what might happen in a story and help them to retell the story from the pictures and from memory.

## **Wordless picture books**

Initially, your child may bring books home which will not have text , and we ask you to help your child by listening to them tell the story from the pictures. When they have learnt to tell a story using pictures, the children will begin to use books with simple text.

## Helping your child to read

**Be positive!** Praise your child for trying hard at their reading. Let them know it is alright to make mistakes.

**Turn off the TV!** With no distractions, you can enjoy reading together.

**Give them time.** Let them make a guess before you tell them the word.

**Help them to get the first sound.** Help them to get the first letter and to try to sound the words out.

**Use the pictures.** Help them to look at the pictures for clues.

**Point with a finger.** Encourage them to follow the words with their finger until they become more confident readers.

**Don't make them try too hard!** It doesn't matter if you have to tell them the word sometimes.

**Ask lots of questions.** Check they understand the story by asking them questions about what happens.

**Don't read for too long.** A good ten minutes is better than a difficult half hour.

## **How to encourage your child to read**

**Read yourself!** Show a good example by sharing your reading: newspapers, magazines, and letters.

**Keep books at home.** Let your child know that books are part of your life.

**Keep books safe.** Make your child their own special place to keep their books. Talk to them about how to care for books.

**Point out words all around you.** Help your child to read the words around them: on food packets, in the Supermarket, on buses, in newspapers, in recipes.

**Visit your Library – it's free to join!** All libraries have children's sections. Some have storytelling sessions.

**Make a time to read.** Why not share a bedtime story? Encourage your child to join in the reading with you.

**Let everyone help.** Encourage your child to read with other people: Grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunties, uncles.

## **Make it fun!**

- Buy books or book tokens as presents. Buy comics and magazines after school instead of sweets.
- Have a laugh reading joke books.
- Make your own books together. Write words and draw pictures for them.
- Play alphabet games and try to think of a word for every letter of the alphabet.
- Spend time chatting about books and stories.
- Tell stories with favourite teddies and toys.
- Make shopping lists and read recipes to cook things together.
- Play I-Spy
- Write stories and poems together.
- Listen to story tapes / CD's. These are great for car journeys.

## **Reading Record Book**

As well as a school reading book your child will also have a 'reading record book' in which their progress will be monitored.

This book also provides a means of communication between parents and the class teacher and your comments are of great value. Please record your comments in the book to help the teacher know how your child is getting on with reading at home.

### **Lastly**

Children learn about reading at different speeds and with different books but your child will be offered the best possible start if you remember the points in this booklet. Make sure your child knows how pleased you are by praising and encouraging each effort.

If you have any worries or would like to know more about any part of the reading approach we will be more than happy to help.

Happy reading!

Joanne Evans