

# Supporting Early Reading

The more you read to your children, the more knowledge they absorb, and knowledge is important in all aspects of life. There have many studies that show reading to babies and toddlers gives them a head start and helps to prepare them for school later down the line. After all, reading with your children gives them the skills needed for when they start to read themselves.

Here are some ways you can support your child with developing their early reading skills.

## Where and when?

- Read to your child EVERYDAY, make it part of your bedtime routine to let them choose books.
- Try spreading books on the floor and laying down with them.
- Make a reading den in the garden with books in.
- Have a box of books downstairs and rotate the books regularly to add interest.

## What books?

Books help to expose your child to new vocabulary. When you reach a word they may not know then explain what the word means. It allows children to explore new places and emotions of the characters.

Begin to develop empathy by asking your child how they think a character is feeling. If they say “happy” or “sad” give them new vocabulary such as scared, terrified, frightened, upset, excited, surprised.

Read your child a range of books with different types of characters, settings, problems.

## When reading together...

Encourage your child to turn the pages. Talk about what they think is going to happen and why, what can they see in the pictures.

If your child is aware of some sounds or letters set them a challenge to find that letter in the book so they start to become aware of the text on the page too.

## After reading the book

After reading together spend some time discussing the book. Ask them a question or two.

- What happened in the beginning?
- What was the problem? how was the problem solved?
  - Who were the characters?
  - Did you like the book? Why?

### **Be a reading role model**

If your child sees you reading they will want to read too.

Involve them in your reading by talking about what you're reading and what you like about the book.

### **RWI SET 1**

When your child starts school they will begin to learn phonics, the sounds that letters make in words. We use a scheme called Read, Write Inc. You will find the sounds we learn in your pack to begin to familiarise yourself with. Please refer to this website for more information about phonics.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>



### **Games to play**

- Can they think of a silly rhyming word to go with one of the main words in the book? It can be a made up one.
- Write a common word on a post-it such as 'the' or 'and' ask your child to be a word detective and spot the word on the page.
- Choose a word from the book e.g. sun and think of as many words with the same initial sound. You may need to model this to them initially.

### **New books?**

Your local library is a great place to explore new texts. Encourage your child to look at the front covers, read the blurb on the back cover to decide which books to choose.

Swap some books with a friend for a couple of weeks to enjoy new books.

Make use of free online books.