

Reading to Your Child

This workshop will explore the benefits of reading aloud to children, afterwards parents are invited into their child's class to watch a story time session with the teacher.

Research shows that if parents regularly read to their children they are much more likely to succeed in school and life.

Reading and discussing stories, poetry and non-fiction books to your child at a level beyond that which they can read for themselves, will have a huge impact on their future educational attainment.

- Reading to your child develops a love of reading so they will choose to read when they are older.
- By discussing the meaning of new words you broaden your child's vocabulary. Research shows the more words a child knows the greater their educational achievement.
- When you discuss the actions and feelings of characters it helps your child think about and understand the feelings of others.
- Reading to your child develops their comprehension skills and ability to talk about ideas and put forward opinions.
- When listening to a story they cannot read for themselves they hear a model of language at its best, grammar is used correctly and word choices are adventurous. They can then use this model in their own writing.



Reading to Your Child

Just by reading aloud together for 10 minutes a day will see your child grow into an eager, confident learner, acquiring listening skills and gaining new words that are far beyond their reading ability.

- **Start Early**

Babies can read. Your baby is reading when they engage with pictures and print, either on their own or when you are reading to them.

Babies and young children love routine and rituals. The joy of looking forward to a story makes a bedtime routine so much more fun and exciting. Ending the day with a loving cuddle and a book helps a child wind down ready for sleep. Even babies that are too young to understand a story will be soothed and calmed by your voice when you share a book with them. Babies and children who love books and the pleasure of hearing stories and rhymes have a flying start when it comes to learning to read independently.

- **Continue to read to them as your child grows**

Keep sharing reading together even when your child can capably read alone. Research has shown that pupils who are read to by their parents throughout their primary and secondary years are much more likely to achieve academic and career success as adults.

- **Vocabulary**

Discussing the meaning of new words, hearing new vocabulary read in context broadens your child's vocabulary. Research shows the more words a child knows the greater their educational achievement.

- **Book Talk**

A love of reading is the greatest gift you can give your child. You can do this through reading stories to them and enjoying them together. Talking about a book after you have read it should be fun and open ended. Not a test, but a chat exploring together the themes and or characters in a book. There are no wrong or right answers and sometimes just experiencing a story together is enough.

Questions to get Book Talk Started

Remember these should be exploratory in nature for you and your child to answer together.

- **What did you like about the story?**

(encourage your child to give a reason)

eg 'I like the Princess because she tricks the dragon'

- **What didn't you like about the story?**

eg 'I didn't like the boy because he tricked the bear'

- **Encourage your child to make links to their own life**

eg 'Does it remind you of anything?

'Do you remember when we went to the beach?'

'Have you ever been lost?'

- **What patterns can you see?**

- **Did anything surprise you?**

- **Is there anything that puzzles you?**

Asking Questions

Question Stems

Use questions and statements that are open ended and exploratory in tone, with no right or wrong answer.

- What makes you think that?
- What do you think?
- What words give you that impression?
- How do you feel about. .. ?
- Do you like the bit where ?
- I wonder if ?
- I'm not sure what I think about. I wonder what the writer intended?
- This bit reminds me of
- I would hate to have that happen to me would you?