



Home Reading Year R

As well as being an essential skill in life, reading is crucial in unlocking success in other curriculum areas for children. Therefore, it is vital that children are given regular opportunities to read and encouraged to have a positive attitude towards reading.

How often should I read with my child?

Children should experience reading every day as part of their routine. At home, we recommend that children read, or are read to, by an adult for around 20 minutes each day. This does not have to happen all at once but may include reading a bedtime story. **ANY reading is better than NO reading.**

What books should my child be reading?

Children are provided with two books from school; a Phonics Shed book and a library book. Both will be changed weekly and will be chosen by the children. The Phonics Shed book is the one that your child will read to you (at first, this will have no words so your child can tell you about the story or rhyme). Later they will get decodable books that they will begin to read to you. The library book is for you to read to your child, use this as an opportunity to ask questions about the characters, setting and what might happen next.

How do I use the Phonics Shed decodable reading scheme?

Children are still learning to read which can make reading a new book challenging. We recommend that books are read more than once to develop your child's confidence. The structure outlined here may help to guide your reading sessions.

Before reading

Discuss the front cover.
Talk about the characters that you know and predict what this story might be about.
Use the key vocabulary page to practise the words that will be in the story.

First Read

Children will spend most of the time working out how to read the words.
Sound it, Squash it, Say it.
They may not have a complete understanding of the story at this stage.

Second read

Repeat the words from the key vocabulary page
Children are more familiar with the words.
Talk about the characters and what is happening in the story.

Third read

Children should now be reading more fluently (this may take a few more reads) and show a better understanding of the story.
Ask your child the questions at the back of the book.

What is the best way to support my child with their library book?

First of all, remember that your child has chosen this book themselves. It might be about something that is familiar to them, they may like the front cover, it might even be one that they have already have at home. Something has made them choose 'this' book so they are likely to enjoy it.

Use the same strategy as above before reading; look at the cover, read the blurb and make predictions about what the story might be about.

Read it to your child. If it is a long book you might read part of it every night. If your child is confident, let them read some of the high frequency words that they know **but** it is very important that your child gets the understanding of the story so reread paragraphs/pages if there is a lot of stopping and starting.

Question your child about what is happening in the story, to check how well they understand. Let them use the pictures to help.

Where can I find more information about supporting my child with their reading?

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>

Don't forget to visit your local library where there is a wealth of information and resources free to access. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>