

# Helping your child read in Key Stage Two



Reading is such an important skill for children and reading at home has been proved to help this.

### How often?

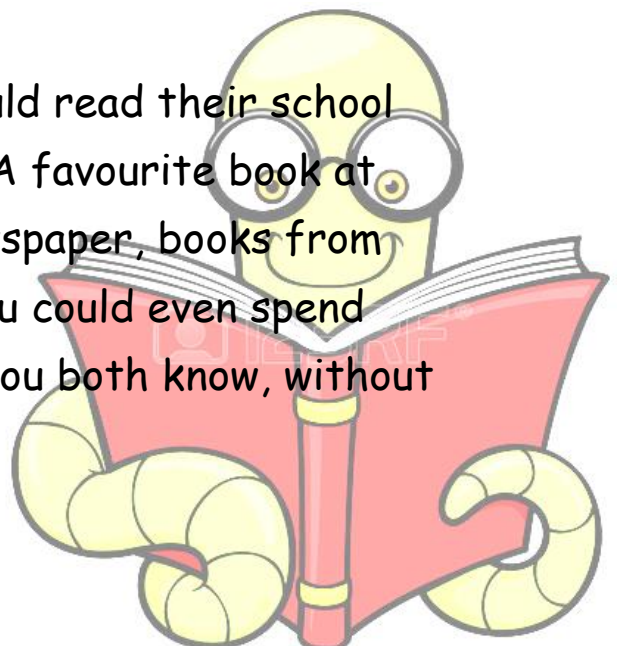
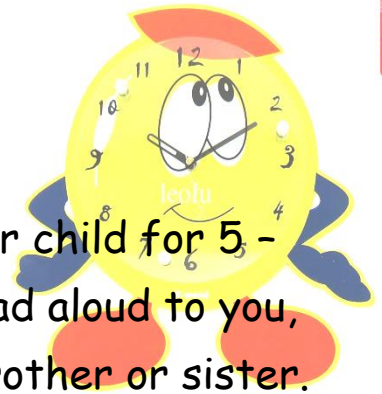
If you can read there times a week with your child for 5 - 10 minutes, it really helps. Your child can read aloud to you, read together or read to a younger/older brother or sister. Even if your do not regularly speak in English, ask your child about the book they are reading. Sharing the experience is key!

### Where?

Find somewhere quiet and comfortable, where you and your child can enjoy they book together. It is important that there few distractions around. Just before going to sleep is an ideal time and helps your child with getting ready for bed.

### What to read?

There are many choices here. You could read their school reading book but you do not have to! A favourite book at home, a magazine, a report in the newspaper, books from the library would be just as great. You could even spend time talking about a favourite story you both know, without actually reading the book



## Skills you can use:-

### Decoding words - this means working out what a word says

In school, the main method we use for working out what a word is by using phonics - that is the children's knowledge of sounds.

You will probably know each letter has its own sound and we use these to break up words to read them

d-r-o-p  
g-r-a-b-s

As your child's reading becomes better, they learn more complicated letter groups' e.g.

sh- o - p  
c-l-i-ck  
p-ai-n-t

If you want to know more about these either ask the class teacher or come to one of our Infant parents' workshops.

We also get the children to guess words or read the whole sentence to work out the word or try words to see if they fit.

## What should I ask my child when reading with them?

It is really important to  
TALK to your child about  
what you are reading.

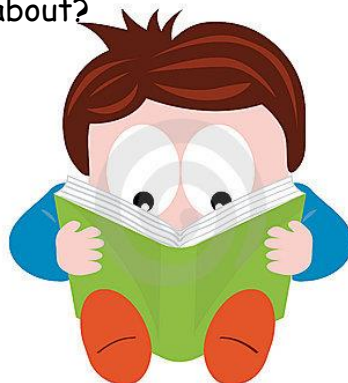
### **Helping Your Child with Reading - Some Questions to ask about a book**

Here are some questions that may help you with your child's reading and enjoyment of the stories that they choose. Don't ask every question, every time they read a book to you! However, by choosing 2 or 3 of the questions to ask your child before, during and after the reading of their book, it will support their understanding of their reading. They can also be adapted to any text that your child is reading (e.g. comics, newspapers, leaflets, information on signs etc)

#### Asking Questions about a book...

##### **Choosing a book:**

- Why did you choose this book?
- Did you like the picture on the front?
- Have you read other books by this author?
- Did you choose it because it is about ... (e.g. Trains, cats, etc?)
- What could this book be about?



### **Before reading the book:**

- Can you point to the title? What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) What does the blurb tell us?
- Talk about the different parts of the book (e.g. Front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator, blurb,)
- If it is an information book, ask them where you will find out about something specific (i.e. can the child use the Contents page or Index to locate information?)





### During the reading of the book:

- Tell me what is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What is the person in the story like....?
- Ask children about events in the story: How would you feel if you had been that character? Has anything like that happened to you? Would you like that to happen to you?
- If reading an information book: What facts have you read? Have you learnt anything new? What does this page tell you about? Is there anything that interests you on this page? Where would you go to find information about....?



**At the end of the book:**

- What was their favourite part? Why?
- What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it?
- What sort of character/person is....?
- Why did that character/person do ... (give an event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?
- Are there any words or phrases that you enjoyed?
- Did the pictures help you to understand the story better?



## 10 Tips on Hearing Your Child Read



**As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read.**

**Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.**

### **1. Choose a quiet time**

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

### **2. Make reading enjoyable**

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then read to them.

### **3. Maintain the flow**

If your child does not get a word right, do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow your child to self-correct. You may have to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds.

### **4. Be positive**

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

### **5. Success is the key**

A parent, who worries about a child's reading, can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.



## 6. Visit the Library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly.

## 7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

## 8. Communicate

Your child will most likely have a reading diary from school. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

## 9. Play word games

Play lots of words games with your child. Good games include hangman, word searches, junior scrabble, boggle etc, plus any junior quiz games

Some websites with word games on them:-

<http://www.knowledgeadventure.com/age/8-year-old-games/>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy/>

Bug Club

## 10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books.