



# How to help your child become a better reader in KS1

## INTRODUCTION

We believe that reading is the key to successful learning in all areas of the curriculum. Our aim is for children to be able to read for information and pleasure.

We encourage children to become independent readers. We use a range of activities and pupils receive individual, small group and whole class lessons. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to become a better reader.

This leaflet gives some practical ideas and explains how you can help your child at home.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

When you hear your child read, encourage them to use some of these strategies to work words out:

- use picture clues
- check if the word sounds right in the sentence
- look at the length of word
- sound simple words out
- break words into parts / known words e.g. inside, myself,
- re-read to sort out mistakes

It is important not to confuse your child, so concentrate on developing a few skills at a time. You might say: 'Remember to use the pictures to give you a clue.' Remember, your child will already use some of the clues mentioned.

## **READING PRACTICE**

The aim is to make reading an enjoyable experience, but consistency is essential if progress is to be made.

Try to:

- practise regularly (at least 3 times a week)
- allocate a specific time for reading (10 minutes per evening if possible)
- use a comfortable and quiet area
- make activities fun and interesting
- enjoy this special time with your child

## **CONFIDENCE AND MOTIVATION**

These can be developed through:

- re-reading familiar books - this is so important as it helps the child develop smooth, fluent reading
- reading children's own pieces of writing
- listening to taped stories and listening to adults reading aloud
- lots of praise

## **THINGS TO DO**

- Talk about books and pictures
- Explain what the book is about before reading
- Ask children to predict what might happen next
- Ask children to talk about what has happened
- 'Which words/sentences did you like? Who was your favourite character? Which was your favourite page? Why? Tell me about....'
- Encourage children to use expression
- Make a game out of the common words used in reading
- Make a sentence from a story and cut it up and let the child re-order the sentence. Does it make sense?

## **PHRASES TO USE**

'Look at the first letter, what sound does it make?'

'Does that make sense?'

'Try sounding that word out'

'Well done, you used expression.'

'Good, you sorted it out for yourself.'

'I like the way you went back to that bit to check you'd got it right.'

'Listen to how I read this sentence.'

***Remember to give lots of praise and be specific with your praise.***