

Helping your child with

READING

A guide for
parents and
carers



MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL

10 TIPS ON HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ

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

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

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes a day 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 do something else such as asking your child to read the recipe for you when you are cooking, or playing letter and words games like Scrabble.

3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt them immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sound of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than alphabet names.

4. Be positive

When your child is reading, use a "Pause, Prompt, Praise" approach:

Pause: If your child stops at a difficult word, then pause briefly. Give your child time to figure out the word.

Prompt: If your child cannot read the word or does not read it correctly ask them to try again or ask 'What word would make sense?' If your child still cannot read the word correctly, say the word and ask them to repeat it.

Praise: When your child reads the word correctly, praise him or her for reading the word without help.

5. Success is the key

Giving a child a book that is too difficult can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Until your child has built up their 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. You will see when they need to read harder books.

6. Visit the library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly – let them see you choosing a book too and then reading it at home. When children see their parents do something, they see it as a valuable activity.

7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. ‘Little and often’ is best. Teachers have limited time to help your child with reading. Take books wherever you go: the doctors, visiting relatives or even on the bus!

8. Communicate

Try to communicate regularly with teachers with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

9. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the cover, the characters, how they think the story will end and their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials – fiction, non-fiction, magazines, poems and newspapers.

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

Questions	Is	Has Did Was	Can	Should	Could/ Would	Will	Might
What							
Where							
When							
Which							
Who							
Why							
How							

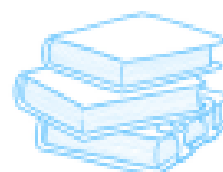
For example:

- 1. What is the weather like?
- 2. Where has Paddy come from?
- 3. When did she first start to get angry?
- 4. Which should be the right way to act here?
Forgiving or angry?
- 5. Who could also help?
- 6. Why will Paddy react in that way?
- 7. How might he have reacted differently?

A REMINDER

Top Tips

For Reading with Your Child at Home



As we all know, there is a lot more to reading than just reading! Here are some tips to help during reading sessions with your child at home.

- What is happening? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read the text. What can you see?
- Discuss the meaning of words. Use a dictionary to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.
- Discuss alternative words. For example, 'big'. Ask your child to think of another word that means the same, e.g. 'huge' (use a thesaurus).
- Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- Start at the end of the book. What do you think has happened before this point? Why do you think that?
- Discuss feelings. How do you think the characters are feeling? What has made them feel this way?
- Where is the story set? Have you read another story with the same setting? For example, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson are both set in the woods.
- Discuss the problem in the story. What has happened? What went wrong?
- Discuss the resolution. How was the problem solved? Is there another way it could have been resolved?
- Fact or fiction? Is this book a story book or a non-fiction book? How do you know?
- What have you learnt? What do you know now that you didn't know before reading the book?

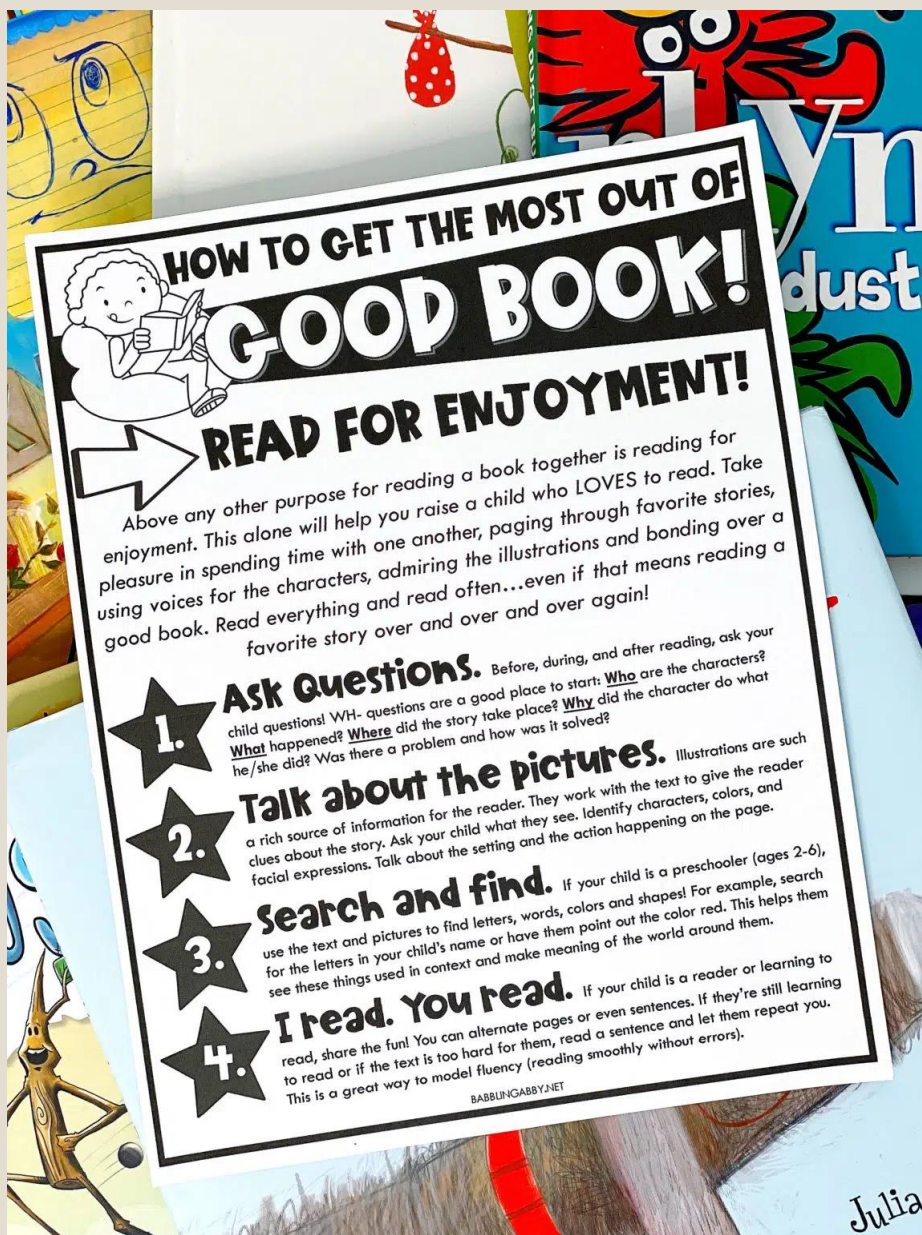
During Reading

Encourage children to use expression when reading, especially for the voices of different characters.

Discuss the punctuation on the page, for example, exclamation marks. Ask: what are these for? What should you do when you see an exclamation mark?

You do not always have to read the entire book every night. Focus on 2 pages and talk about the characters, setting, and plot in a lot of detail. You might want to take it in turns to read so your child can hear how you read.

VISIT



<https://babblingabby.net/reading-tips-for-parents/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBuT2wdYtpM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXGtpixwJGc>