

Top Tips for Reading Together

- Get to know your child as a reader. What are their favourite genres? Who are their favourite authors?
- Encourage your child to read the blurbs when selecting books. Does it sound an inspiring read?
- Make regular visits to the local library.
- Get into the habit of reading regularly to your child as well as hearing your child read.
- Find a comfortable place to read, away from any distractions.
- Read for meaning and enjoyment. Talk about the story and pictures and don't simply focus on the decoding of text and fluency of reading aloud.
- Never show frustration or disappointment with your child's mistakes, even if you are a bit surprised by them. Your child may simply be tired, or not in the mood for reading, or have genuine difficulty with a particular word or text. Always encourage. Promote reading as FUN!

Reading Comprehension

Reading is about much more than the decoding of text, however fluently your child might read aloud. Comprehension skills, including recall, inference and deduction, sequencing and prediction are all central to your child's ability to read.

Discussing a story should be an enjoyable and natural part of reading together. Be careful not to make it feel too formal. The expectation of having to analyse and unpick every story could actually put some children off altogether.

However, a quick recall of previous events or a prediction of what might happen next is a good way to start (Where did we get up to yesterday? What do you think might happen in the next chapter?)

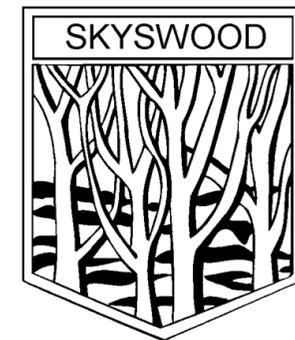
Pick up, wherever possible, on the questions that your child raises as the starting point for discussion. Talk about a good book in the same way that you might talk about a good film!



Parent Information Booklet



Reading with your Child



Skyswood Primary &
Nursery School

A Couple of Strategies

Alternate!

Take it in turns to read a page (or half a page) alternately. This will help to gradually build up your child's reading 'stamina.' Reading too much in one go could compromise the enjoyment for some children.

Predicted Intervention

Parents who read regularly with their child will quickly become able to predict the words that might present problems. Rather than allowing your child to struggle, or interrupting the flow by analysing a word, simply support them by naturally filling in the word. Flow of story is much more important than stopping to focus on a tricky word, and if it comes up again your child may well recognise the word second time around!



Reading for Pleasure

Why are some children avid readers whilst others are reluctant readers?

All children are different and we don't want to force them to engage in activities when they are resistant. However, we can provide a language rich environment, raise the profile of books from an early age, and give your children every encouragement to read.

Choose a good time to read together. Find a time where you can genuinely commit to reading with your child without fear of interruption. Model the pleasure of reading through sharing your own enthusiasm for books. Make your home 'book friendly.'

Encourage your child to be reflective. It's sensible to change a book if you've read a couple of chapters and aren't enjoying the story, but encourage your child not to reject a book simply by looking at the cover or after having just read the first page. Support their decision to reject a book when they've given it a fair chance!

Support your child when they choose to re-read a book rather than discouraging them because they've 'read it before.' Children often get even more out of a book when they read it second time round! Good books, like good films, deserve to be read or seen again!

When is a book too 'difficult?'

In terms of fluency and decoding, if your child struggles with, on average, more than one word in twenty then we would suggest that the book is a little too challenging to read fluently. If your child is struggling with fluency of reading then change the book rather than persevere with something that is too difficult. If they are enthusiastic about a book but find it difficult to read then we suggest that this is an ideal book for you to read to your child.

Some parents occasionally underestimate the value of picture books or suggest that their child should have 'grown out of them.' Many picture books are inspiring. Talking about the content of a good picture book is just as important in developing higher order reading skills as reading a good novel. Ask open questions, offer opinions and enjoy picture books together regardless of your child's age.

Non Fiction

Many children may show a preference for non fiction books. Support this! By all means encourage a breadth of reading and also promote a love of fiction, but it is most important that your child enjoys their reading, so respect their choices. There are immense benefits that come with a love of non-fiction.