

Reading at Home

Why read?

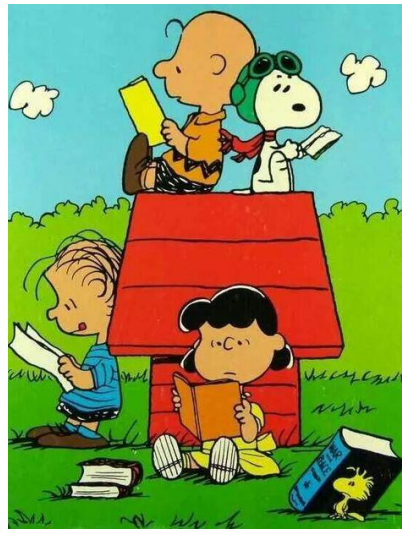
Sharing books and stories with your child is fun!

It is a great way to build special memories and moments with your child and can easily become a favourite part of the day.

It also helps children:

- understand the world around them
- develop social and emotional skills
- boost their communication skills
- strengthen their bond with you and other family members

AND reach their potential in every subject at school.



When should we read?

Anytime!

You will find a time that suits you and your family. Just 10 minutes every day can make a huge difference to your child's skills and confidence.

Encourage your young reader to keep a book with them all the time - in their bag, in the car, in the garden - then they can read in spare minutes!

Bedtime Story

A regular, nightly routine helps children get a better night's sleep. A bedtime story can be a special part of that routine.

What should we read?

You can read anything.

Find your local library and see what your child likes.

Ask teachers, librarians or other parents to recommend books.

Visit the bookfinder on the Book Trust website for some ideas:
booktrust.org.uk/bookfinder

Try out a range of picture books, comics, poems, and rhymes.

You can read the same book over and over again. Familiar books are comforting and build confidence.

Books don't have to be full of words. Picture books are perfect for sharing and talking about with your child. You can use pictures to explore stories and help your child understand books that are more difficult.

Read cookery books, manuals, comics and menus - the world is full of words!

Your child's teachers will always be happy to help and advise you about reading.

How?

Find a quiet place with no distractions.

Turn off televisions, radios, computers and tablets. Take time to look at each page. You don't need to make sure your child gets every word right. It is ok for both of you to make mistakes! Let them talk to you about the pictures. This helps them look for meaning and to think about what they see happening on the page. Don't forget to smile. If you feel comfortable try adding 'sound effects' to the story or putting on character voices - these always make children giggle!

Reading at School

At school your child practises their reading skills every day...in lots of different ways. Aim to support your child in reading their school reading book at least three times every week.

Inside their reading record book are tips and advice as well as suitable questions to ask about their reading. Talking about reading helps develop understanding.

Who reads at home?

Be a reading role model. Have a book 'on the go' yourself. Let your child see that you enjoy reading and they will want to do it too!

What if English isn't my first language?

Don't worry!

You don't have to only read books in English. Carry on sharing books, stories and rhymes in your first language! Your child may use English words - you can still reply or repeat what they have said in your own language. Children love the sound of your voice and can cope with two languages. Sharing stories is about more than just learning to read - it's about snuggling up and spending time together.

Reading and Technology

You can find storytelling apps and stories on tablets and computers too. Just be sure to stay with your child and enjoy sharing the story with them.

Booktrust.org.uk