

Millbrook School

# **SHARING BOOKS WITH YOUR CHILD AT HOME**



**Ideas for parents/carers to support reading  
development and the enjoyment of books**

## ***Sharing a Book***

*When you share a book with your child, try to talk about some of the following:-*

- The pictures
- The characters
- What has already happened in the story, so far
- What could happen next in the story
- Their favourite character
- Their favourite part so far
- How the story will end.
- Some of the 'tricky' words i.e. characters names, places

### ***Where, When?!***

#### ***Where:***

Reading together, sharing books and stories should be an enjoyable experience - so choose a quiet, comfortable place.

#### ***When:***

Choose a time when you are not pressured or tired. Make sure your child is also not too tired or needing (or wanting) to do something else.

***Reading practice should take place regularly.  
Little and often is much better than once a week.***

## *What?*

Your child does not have to read just their school books.

Let them read:-

- the cereal packets
- the television magazine
- comics
- library books
- recipes
- shopping lists
- instructions for games

## *How*

If your child is reading and gets stuck on a word, you can help them to make a good guess by:

- Looking for clues in the picture
- Looking at the first letter of the word
- Re-reading the sentence leading up to the word

Encourage the child to use the meaning of what they are reading to guess unknown words. Sometimes it will be better to say 'read to the end and come back to it'.

Remember that some words cannot be sounded out e.g. 'the' and 'said'. Just give the whole word to the child.

Be careful with more complicated word building and try to use 'chunks' rather than individual letters.

Have regular checks for understanding - What has happened? Why? What next?

Try to avoid interrupting too often. If the child reads a different word but it makes sense, let them carry on and come back to it at the end.

*Be a good role model - let children see you reading regularly*

### **PAIRED READING**

Giving a child support and confidence as a reader is vitally important.

Here are some methods that can be used with your child:

1. The adult reads the page/passage first, with the child following the words carefully. The child then reads the same page/passage with the adult prompting where necessary.
2. The adult and the child read a page/passage aloud together *at the same time*, with the adult keeping to the child's pace.
3. The child starts reading but indicates to the adult when they cannot read a word. This can be by an agreed 'sign' i.e. a tap or nod. The adult then says the word and the child continues reading *without repeating the word*.

This can be combined with method 2, where the adult begins reading and the child indicates when they feel that they could take over for a while.

*Reading once a day for a short time is far better than once a week for a long time.*

## PAUSE, PROMPT, PRAISE

*Encouraging children towards independent reading means we must help them to gain confidence and know that it's alright to 'have a try' even it is might be wrong.*

*The following 'buzzwords' will help:*

**Pause** - when a child stops at an unknown word, give a few seconds to let them think.

**Prompt** - help the child to find some way to read the word.

**Praise** - any attempt to find the word deserves praise.

Remember to SUPPORT and PRAISE - children learn best when they are **enjoying** their work.

## Reading to Your Child

Reading should be a pleasurable activity for children, as well as an essential skill to be learnt.

Children who have difficulty in reading independently or easily often do not experience this. Sometimes they are unable to access books that their peers are reading or books that appeal to them. It is important not to compare them with others. Racing through the reading scheme is not the purpose of reading.

Having a story read *to* them can help to make up for this, as well as developing an interest and enjoyment in books.

*Listening to different styles of writing, different ideas, different vocabulary will greatly help their writing, particularly story writing in school.*

Reading to your child should take place whatever age they are - from nursery to secondary!

*'Story tapes' that accompany books are an excellent idea, particularly for older children. These could be used just to listen to at first but later you could encourage your child to follow the text in the book at the same time. Many libraries have a good selection of audio-tapes to borrow.*

## Fluent Reader

As your child's skill in reading develops he/she can still benefit from a shared reading experience. To help increase fluency, read with expression and help understand the contents.

Suggested activities:

- where there is direct speech - take part - as in a play.
- Discuss the experience of the characters and relate to the child's own experience.
- Use a dictionary to check words.
- Read silently and talk about the book.
- Read for your child if the text is difficult e.g. researching for a topic in an encyclopedia.

All children have a reading record book in which you can date and initial when you hear your child read. Please also indicate if the book is finished (or the page number) and an additional comment if you wish.

# Reading is FUN



**Regular reading with your child  
is the key to success**