

Supporting Reading at Home for Infant children

Find a place to sit together that suits you both. Try to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes a day and once over the weekend. Encourage it as a pleasurable experience.

Get set for reading and go....

- Always start the reading session by allowing your child to look through the whole book, talk about the pictures and discuss what is happening. Use words from the text in this discussion as this way you are giving them plenty of clues to help them read the book.
- Encourage your child to use the pictures, read to the rest of the sentence and phonics clues to work out a tricky word.
- Encourage them to follow the words with their finger when they start to read but as they become more fluent discourage the finger pointing. This will encourage pace and fluency.
- Point out the use of punctuation.
- Take turns to read the longer stories.
- Discuss your child's favourite word or phrase.
- Talk about the main event and characters - this will enhance their comprehension skills.
- Reread stories so that your child becomes familiar with them and can retell them.

After reading ask some questions like...

- Where and when did the story take place?
- Which words tell you about the setting?
- What did the character/s do?
- Which words tell you about the setting?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- What is going to happen at the end of the story?
- What is your favourite part of the story?

What if your child is a good reader?

Although children will often want to read in their heads when they become fluent readers and you should not insist on too much reading aloud, there are still many things that you can do.

Discuss with them what they have read – about the character, about the plot, about the important parts of the story, about what they have learnt from the information, about their feelings as they read the story.

For example;

- Which part of the story did you like best? Why?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Would you like X as a friend? Why?
- What do you think X should have done when..?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Was the information detailed enough?

What if your child won't read?

- Don't make an issue out of it
- Read to your child as much as possible
- When reading with your child set them a challenge to find certain words in the text and to shout out or clap when they see it or hear it. You could choose a high frequency word or a word you know will come up a lot in the story
- Talk to your child's class teacher