



Meridian Community Primary School & Nursery

Helping your child with reading



Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day.

Think of ways to make reading fun - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be. If you're both enjoying talking about the content of a particular page, linger over it for as long as you like.

Books aren't just about reading the words on the page, they can also present new ideas and topics for you and your child to discuss.

Tips for helping your child to enjoy books:

The 'feel good' factor

- Make the session short, relaxed and fun!
- Think about the best time and place to do it
- Feel you are sharing an interesting book, not just hearing your child read
- Schedule a regular time for reading - perhaps when you get home from school or just before bed
- Visit the library as often as possible - take out CDs and DVDs as well as books.
- Look for books on topics that you know your child is interested in - maybe dragons, insects, cookery or a certain sport.
- Make sure that children's books are easily accessible in different rooms around your house.

Different ways to read a book

- You read to your child as they look at/point to words
- You read but miss out occasional words for them to fill in
- Take turns to read a page
- Try paired reading with a sibling
- Your child reads to you as you look at/point to words

Warming up a text

- Talk about the cover, the blurb on the back and make predictions about what you think the story is about. What is it called? What do you know about ____? What do you think about ____?
- Look through and talk about the pictures
- Introduce any key vocabulary, names of characters and tricky words which might stop the flow when reading

Reading strategies

- Look at the word and try sounding it out. Does that sound right?
- Look at the picture to see if you can see anything which starts with the same sound as the word?
- Look at the other words in the sentence, particularly the ones before and after, to see if that helps you to make sense of the word
- Ask questions like: What could you try? Do you know a word like that? Can you separate the word into syllables? Where is the tricky part?

It is helpful to ask

- Who were the characters?
- Where were they?
- When did the story happen?
- What happened in the beginning/the middle/the end of the story?
- What was your favourite bit?

Re-reading builds up confidence

- Suggest your child shows how well he can read by reading the book to another adult, child, favourite toy or pet
- Suggest they record their reading
- Buy dual-language books if English isn't your family's first language - you can talk about books and stories, and develop a love for them, in any language.

Please try to read with your child, whatever their age, every day. You can add comments in their Reading Records to show how they have responded to the questions you've asked or the things you have discussed. The reading records contain other useful information for how to support reading at home.

The Reading Records are different depending on the year group your child is in and can be seen below. These are a really useful contact between home and school.



Here are some useful questions to ask your child before, during and after reading a book. These questions are designed to get further into a book beyond simply reading the words. Clearly it isn't necessary to ask every question, every time you read. The secret is little and often, asking a broad range of questions.

<p>Understanding a book...</p> <p>What does _____ mean?</p> <p>What extra information did the picture add?</p> <p>What happened when _____?</p> <p>What did _____ do/ask?</p> <p>Which word told you that _____?</p> <p>What did you find out about _____?</p> <p>Can you summarise what happened in the last chapter/paragraph?</p> <p>What do you think might have happened if _____?</p>	<p>Inferring and interpreting...</p> <p>How did _____ feel when _____ happened? How do you know?</p> <p>What is the purpose of _____?</p> <p>Have we read something like this before?</p> <p>What does _____ feel/think? How can you tell?</p> <p>What do you think _____ might do now?</p> <p>How do you think this chapter might end?</p> <p>Which words tell you how _____ was feeling?</p>
<p>Identifying and commenting...</p> <p>What is the purpose of _____?</p> <p>Why is _____ in bold/italics?</p> <p>Why have they presented it this way?</p> <p>Why does the author use _____? (E.g. speech marks, interesting vocabulary, etc.)</p> <p>Why did the author change the story?</p> <p>Is this fiction or non-fiction?</p>	<p>Explaining...</p> <p>Find 3 words that tell you _____.</p> <p>What is the main idea of the story?</p> <p>Does the author like _____? How do you know?</p> <p>Did anything surprise you in the story?</p> <p>What did you like/dislike?</p> <p>Why do you think _____ said that?</p> <p>Explain why the story is both happy and sad.</p>

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet or would like to volunteer in school hearing readers, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.