

Welcome and THANKS

The aims of this workshop are:

- To help you to understand how children learn to read and the skills they need
- To give you strategies when helping your child at home
- To raise your child's self esteem and promote reading in a positive light, thereby raising attainment levels

- Reading is an important skill which aids learning in all curriculum areas.
- At West Kidlington Primary School & Nursery we want all children to enjoy reading as well as becoming confident readers.
- We understand the importance of creating parent partnership and would like to share with you some information about how we teach reading in school and how you can support reading at home.

Why is it important for my child to read?

People read for many reasons:

- for pleasure and interest
- for work
- to obtain information that will help them make choices and decisions
- to understand directions (such as those on street signs and in recipe books)
- to learn about the world
- to keep in touch with family and friends

The fluent reader...

- thinks of reading as a good thing and does it automatically
- uses a variety of methods to identify words and their meanings
- can read various kinds of texts and predict events in a story
- relates the meaning of books to his or her own experience and knowledge, and understands what is new

Some Top Tips to help



TIP 1

FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN DO, NOT WHAT YOU CAN'T

Sometimes as parents it can feel like we're working flat out just to fit everything in! But remember, although we all find it hard to make the time to read and play with our children, when it comes to reading just a few simple things can make all the difference. There are also lots of places to find advice, tips, and resources.

Why not try:

- Talking to your child's teacher or teaching assistant about their reading. They will have some great ideas and will be keen to help.
- Asking your local library whether they run story telling workshops or if they lend out story tapes or CDs so your child can enjoy listening to stories as they are learning to read.
- Talking to other parents about what books their children like and swapping ideas about what they've found works for them.



TIP 2

FIND THE RIGHT LEVEL

Many young children struggle with reading because they are introduced to books which are too hard for them. Every child develops at their own speed so try to be patient, looking for stories which give yours just the right level of challenge.

Why not try:

- Encouraging your child to choose a book they want to read – books with pictures are often the best to help them gain confidence.
- Asking your child's teacher about the types and level of book that will best suit their level of reading.
- Reading harder books to them if they want to hear more complex stories, but letting them read the easy bits.
- Reading their favourite book again and again with them. Repetition helps your son or daughter learn new words.



TIP 3

MAKE A REGULAR TIME TOGETHER

Creating a regular 'special time' to read together can help younger children see the magical world that can be unlocked by the opening of a book, comic or magazine and learn to love the time when they have your undivided attention.

Why not try:

- Building a regular story time into your child's bedtime routine.
- Switching off the TV and your mobile to read with them. Resist the urge to tidy their room or do the washing up and give them your time to sit and read together.
- Telling them about a book or story you liked when you were a child. You may still be able to find a copy of it on the internet!
- Making up a story or telling them about when you were a child or something that happened to you at school – remember you don't always need a book to tell a good story.



Children are growing up in a constantly changing world so consistent routines and stable patterns can help them to feel secure and cared for. As a dad myself I know how reading together provides a great way of really connecting with your child. It's good for the soul!

Davies, Dad to three boys

TAKE TIME TO LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN

TIP 4

In the middle of a busy day it can be easy to rush reading too, often reading the words for your son or daughter to hurry them along. Try to take time, instead, to really 'tune in' to what your child is saying; slowing down to listen to them without interrupting will help them see that you value what they have to say.

Why not try:

- Listening with your eyes as well as your ears – giving them your full attention as they talk or read to you.
- Taking it in turns to read parts of the story.
- Telling them one thing you really enjoy about listening to them read. This will encourage them to do it again.



STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN PERFECTION AND CONNECTION

TIP 5

As your child begins to grow in confidence in reading they're still bound to make mistakes. Get into the habit of praising them for all the words they get right – not just focussing on the ones they are struggling with. At the same time, try to recognise any patterns in the ones they do get wrong and think about the best way to correct mistakes.

Why not try:

- Praising them for the words they get right - it really works wonders!
- Looking out for things which will motivate your child to read – instructions on how to enter a competition, make a model or scanning a TV listing to discover when a favourite show is on.
- Making a mental note of any words that your child repeatedly struggles with and spending a few minutes at the start of every reading time trying them out.



TIP 6

TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE READ

Talking about what you've just read together helps children think about what they've read, boosts their imagination and grows their confidence. It's also a good way to pick up on new words and check that they understand what they've read.

Why not try:

- Getting your child to think of questions they can ask you to test if you've been listening!
- Asking how they think a particular character in a story might be feeling (you can look at the faces in pictures to help them get started).
- Asking them to tell you what they would do if they were in the story, or what they think is going to happen next. These questions encourage your child to say more than 'yes' or 'no'.



TIP 7

ENJOY READING EVERYWHERE

It doesn't always have to be a book. Every day there are lots of opportunities for you to encourage your child to get reading.

Why not try:

- Going online together and reading or printing off a web page that interests them.
- Carrying a book or comic in your bag to share when you are out and about, on the bus, train, etc.
- Encouraging them to read traffic signs, adverts, cereal packets, simple news headlines, DVD covers or film reviews.



ASK FOR EXTRA HELP IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD NEEDS IT

TIP 8

It is a staggering fact that around 1 in 5 children reach the age of 11 unable to read confidently. Indeed, it may be that despite all attempts your child still struggles when it comes to reading. This can be a challenge to both the child and their carer but the earlier any problem is spotted the sooner something can be done about it. There are a range of reasons why your child may be struggling but there are a wide range of organisations which can provide support, practical help and specialist advice.

Why not try:

- Talking first to your child's teacher about any concerns you have – they will be able to offer practical advice and options for getting extra help.
- Checking your child's eye sight. Taking your child to an optician for a free eye test could rule out whether your child has eye tracking problems or sight difficulties.
- Visiting Springboard for Children's website where we list a range of specialist organisations which can help. www.springboard.org.uk



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOOK!

TIP 9

Never before have children had such access to a range of wonderful creative story and picture books, websites, applications, audio books and mobile devices. E-readers and interactive books are now adding further to the wealth of exciting opportunities for children to read.

However, children still need to 'crack the code' by learning the basic building blocks for reading. As your children grow up ask them the kind of things they like to read and 'how' they like to read them.

Why not try:

- Joining your local library. Not only do they provide access to a huge variety of free books, they also provide DVD's, audiobooks and even internet access for a small charge. You will need ID to sign up.
- Making a simple book together with pictures they draw or photos they take and help them to write a simple story alongside it.
- Remembering that having fun talking, listening, telling stories and reading together will not only help your son or daughter learn to read but will create memories for you both that will last forever.

