



Can I help my child to read?



It is very important that your child should read to an adult on a daily basis.

“My child is tired after school and loses concentration.”

Little and often is best, two sessions of ten minutes each is better than one long session of twenty minutes.

“What should I do if my child doesn't know a particular word?”

SOUND OUT any new words or words your child gets stuck on. Do not use letter names. Sometimes it is a good idea to just supply the word yourself in order to keep the flow of the story.

Some reading books have a list at the back of new words that have been introduced in that book. Has the book you have just finished got a list? If so, check to see if your child knows these words.

“How do I know if my child really understands what he is reading?”

Talk about the story with your child as you read it together. What are the characters like? Are they nice or nasty? Would you like to meet them? Predict what you think is going to happen next. You may have different ideas - which of you turns out to be right?

“There do not seem to be very many words in some of the books my child brings home, but the pictures are terrific!”

The pictures are often a very important part of the book, and if you use part of your reading time talking about them, then this is time well spent. Look at the pictures and discuss them. Do they give clues to the story? Do they tell you more about the characters? There is often far more in the illustrations that at first meets the eye!

REMEMBER - GIVE LOTS OF PRAISE

REMEMBER - READ TOGETHER DAILY

“I try to hear my child read everyday, we enjoy it and she is doing well, is there anything else I can do?”

Encourage your child to join the public library and take an interest in what he or she chooses.

Your child may prefer to read factual books rather than just story books. That's fine - there is still lots for you to talk about together.

“My child is developing into quite a fluent reader and often wants to read for longer than 10 minutes as he gets into the story.”

That's great! There is no need to hear him quite so often now. Encourage a quiet time when he can concentrate on the story for himself.

“I think that reading aloud to me is slowing my child down. There aren't many pictures to discuss now in her books. Can I still help her?”

Some reading aloud is still important to help improve expression and fluency, so don't stop entirely. But have you thought about reading the books your child brings home yourself? You'll probably be surprised at how interesting and exciting you find them, and you'll be helping your child's reading development in a very important way as you can talk about the books together.

If you have any concerns about your child's reading, or you feel you would like more advice, please contact your child's teacher.

REMEMBER - READ BEDTIME STORIES

SPELLING HELP

We suggest that you use the following method with your child at home:

LOOK at the word you are trying to learn

COVER it up

WRITE it down

CHECK it with the list



Make sure that your child can read and pronounce the word correctly.

Identify and concentrate on the letter group or pattern that is the theme of the list.

Always make sure that your child writes the word down - this helps with both reading and writing.

If you have any worries at all please contact your child's teacher.

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