



Staveley CE School Guide to reading

For all children practising reading at home is an extremely important part of becoming a successful reader, as is having stories and poems read to them. Listening to stories read by an adult or on a tape is also invaluable in developing reading skills and helps children when they write their own stories.

We recommend reading with your child for a short time, regularly, at least 5 times throughout the week.

How should I approach reading with my child at home?

Remember!

- Reading together should be an enjoyable experience
- Make it a special time
- Give lots of praise
- Respect your child's choice of book
- Sometimes it is enjoyable to read an 'easy' book or to re-read an old favourite. Indeed this is very important when developing fluency and writing skills
- Write **anything** you think is relevant in the home/school book – work with the teacher to achieve maximum reading success!

When reading **to** your child:

- Make the story interesting with different voices etc.
- Discuss the story together
- Stop at some point and ask your child to guess what happens next
- Talk about the pictures

A few further points to consider when reading with your child at home.

- Remember that talking about reading is very important so if your child is reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book will also help develop reading skills
- Concentrate on enjoyment and meaning rather than absolute accuracy
- Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable, in a quiet corner, with the television turned off
- Talk about the cover and read the title before rushing your child into the text, asking questions such as: What do you think it will be about? What sort of book is it? Have you read one like this before?
- Look through the book noticing interesting pictures and words and then read the opening together
- Don't correct too quickly. If your child hesitates, suggest having a go, searching the pictures for a clue, sounding out the first letter/s or reading on before you 'tell' the problem word. If it is a word that makes no difference to the meaning(e.g. house instead of home) it is usually best to ignore it
- If your child is really struggling take over the reading yourself and let the teacher know
- When your child brings home a book that has been read before, ask for a summary before reading it again, then discuss the book at a deeper level than last time
- As your child progresses, talk about characters, plots and authors or what new information has been learnt
- If your child reads silently ask him/her to re-tell the part that has been read and encourage the 'pointing out' of relevant sections in the text
- Sometimes it is good to let your child read a page alone and then re-read the page aloud to you
- Join your local library and use it regularly. Watch out for storytelling events and reviews of new titles