



Helping your child learn to read is one of the most important ways that you can help them with their education. Studies have shown that parental involvement is the key to a child succeeding. Children who read at home are much more likely to become a successful reader and go on to do well in other areas of learning.

Here are some tips for helping your child to become a skilled, confident and life-long reader.

Reception

- Enjoy bedtime stories together. Your child will want to hear their favourite stories over and over again! This is great because it helps them to memorise how stories are structured, extends their vocabulary and helps them to make a link between spoken and written language.
- Try and make time to share your child's reading book with them everyday. Five or ten minutes will make a huge difference to their development. The books marked with a 'P' are phonic scheme books. The books that your child is on will have been matched to their current level of phonic development. These phonic books will help them to practise sounding out unfamiliar words using what they know about sounds and letters. The books marked with a 'C' are books with richer language that require a greater level of sight recognition.
- Encourage them to use their knowledge of letter sounds to sound out regular words e.g. d-o-g, r-u-n... Try not to jump in too quickly if they don't get it right first time; sounding out is hard work!
- Help them to recognise 'tricky' words that can't be sounded out e.g. 'the', 'she', 'was'...
- Encourage your child to join in with repeated language within stories e.g. 'Run, run as fast you can! You can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!'
- Talk together about what you think might happen next in a story. Why do you think that?
- Take time to look at the pictures in a book as you read. What can you see? Are there any 'hidden' objects or characters that keep appearing on different pages?
- Support your child in making links between what they read and events in their own lives: 'This story is about some children who go to the beach. Do you remember when we went to the beach and saw that starfish? What else did we see that day?'