



READ! TO SUCCEED!

Guidance For Supporting
Your Child's Reading At Home



Two Mile Ash School's Guidance For Supporting Your Child's Reading At Home

At Two Mile Ash School, we understand how imperative regular reading is to help our children become fluent readers. Our 'Big Project' is to help all children become confident readers who read for pleasure on a regular basis. Research has shown that just ten minutes of reading a day will not only expose children to around 700,000 words a year, but improves children's general knowledge, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. To help us achieve this, as a school, we will ensure that we read to the children daily for 10 minutes and would ask you to match this by reading for 10 minutes at home. This can be your child reading to you or, occasionally, an adult reading to a child.

Below is some guidance on how this can be achieved.

Sharing a book with a child

Make sure your child has a comfortable, quiet place to sit. Distractions such as TV can make it difficult for children to concentrate. Give the book to your child for five minutes so they can look at it alone. This allows the child to investigate and explore the text and pictures independently before starting to read. Read the title together and ask them to tell you about the story and any questions they may have before beginning. Remember talking about books is as important as reading them.

Reading aloud

To help your child become more confident in their reading, it is important that children, particularly in lower school, are given the opportunity to read aloud to an adult as often as possible. It improves their decoding and listening skills. Help your child to sound out and blend any unfamiliar words. If they are still unsure, tell them the word and explain what it means. Then read the sentence again together. Remember to use praise a lot and tell them why they have done well.

You can also support your child by reading to them. In this way, you will be modelling how to pronounce unfamiliar words, intonation and expression. Once your child has heard you read, you could go back and re-read two or three sentences and ask them to then read the exact same sentences back to you.

This would allow them to imitate the way that you have read, reinforcing correct pronunciation, intonation and expression.

Reading with older children

Older children may feel that they enjoy reading on their own more and prefer to read in their head instead of aloud to an adult. This is usually evidence that they are enjoying the reading experience and are skilled and independent enough to read alone. The focus for a parent at this point should be more on discussion of comprehension and fostering an environment where sharing reading experiences and opinions about books is valued at home.

My child doesn't like reading

Sometimes your child may say that they just don't like reading. If this is the case then there could be a number of reasons:

- **The format of books isn't grabbing them.**

Social media, video games, and quick online videos are all tough competition for the experience of reading a paper-and-ink book. Children need adults to help them limit their screen time, slow down a bit and set aside a time to read, daily. This does not need to be long- we recommend 10 minutes of daily reading.

- **They aren't interested in the genre**

Sometimes, as parents, we encourage our children to read popular books and then find it hard to understand when your child says, "Books are boring!" However, what your child may really be trying to say is, "I need help finding something to read that's interesting to me." Children should be encouraged to read a variety of genres, eg. comics, sports stories, magazines. Similarly, they may need to be steered towards a different author. Please see list of free reading websites below.

- **They don't see the point of reading.**

Children who don't like to read probably haven't experienced the joy of getting lost in the magic of a story or learning something new about a favourite topic. Reading may feel like a lot of work for no particular reason. Choose books that are above your child's reading level to read out loud to your child. It's good

bonding time for families. Plus it builds comprehension skills, expands vocabulary, and exposes children to more interesting stories than they can read on their own. Stop to talk about what's happening and the meaning of harder words.

- **Reading a book feels overwhelming.**

Sometimes children can feel overwhelmed when they see a long page full of text. In this case, try reading parts of the book together with your child. This can make the reading feel more manageable and gives children a break and lets them hear fluent reading. It also keeps them engaged in a story they might not have the stamina to tackle all on their own.

Similarly, children may be drawn to more difficult books that are currently trending. Lots of young readers pick up *Harry Potter*, for example, when they're not ready to tackle it on their own. Encourage your child to keep this interest by reading these harder books out loud to them. This can help build comprehension skills, keep your child interested in more complex stories, and create positive reading experiences.

Free book websites

Oxford Owl free e- library <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Storynory- <https://www.storynory.com/>

Epic Books-(30 day free trial)

https://www.getepic.com/?utm_channel=search&qclid=CjwKCAiAjeSABhAPEiwAqfxURWlyyLin-4qOMBE75sV3f1TzTCPzk35U4sxam6M1nCdVcHYrTNJr8RoCDn0QAvD_BwE

Oak National Academy's Virtual Library- <https://library.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.storylineonline.net/> Features actors and actresses reading stories on you tube

Comprehension

One of the most important parts of reading is comprehension. If a child decodes fluently, but does not fully understand the story or text, then they can struggle to enjoy or appreciate books. It is therefore essential that children have opportunity to discuss what they are reading. One of the more crucial parts of reading is being able to conclude and infer ideas. Open ended questioning such as: 'Why do you think that happened?' or, 'What makes you think that?' will help with this. Asking children to tell you why or show you clues in the text/pictures can improve their inference skills dramatically. Below are a list of potential questions that could be used in a discussion with a child about a book. Please note, there is guidance in your child's reading record too.

Questions that you could use for book talk:

- Why did you choose this book? What attracted you to it?
- Did you know anything about this book before you started reading it?
- What do you think about it now you have read some? Is it how you imagined it would be? Why/why not?
- Could you tell me what's happened so far (fiction) or what the book is about (non-fiction)?
- What has been the most exciting part? Why?
- What could you do if you can't read a word? What could you do if you can read a word but don't know what it means?
- Have you come across this word before?
- How did you know how to say it? Are there any clues in the word? Does it look like other words you know?
- Can you work out what that word means? How can you use the rest of the sentence, page or pictures to help you?
- What other word could the author have used that means the same sort of thing?
- Can you tell me what has happened in this chapter/on this page?
- Why do you think X (a character) did that? How could we describe that character? What are they like? How do we know that from what they say and do?
- How do you think X (a character) is feeling at the moment? Show me which words/phrases tell us that.

- Why do you think Y (an event) happened?
- What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- How do you think the author wants us to feel at this moment? How are they trying to do that? What is he/she trying to do here?
- What do you think the purpose of using _____ (word or phrase) is in this paragraph?
- Why did the author choose that title?
- What do you notice about the way this page is set out? How does that help us to understand better?
- Have you read any similar books by other authors? Which ones?
- How were the books similar?
- What sorts of books do you enjoy most/least? Why?
- Who is your favourite author? Why do you like his/her books? What would you say to recommend them to other people?