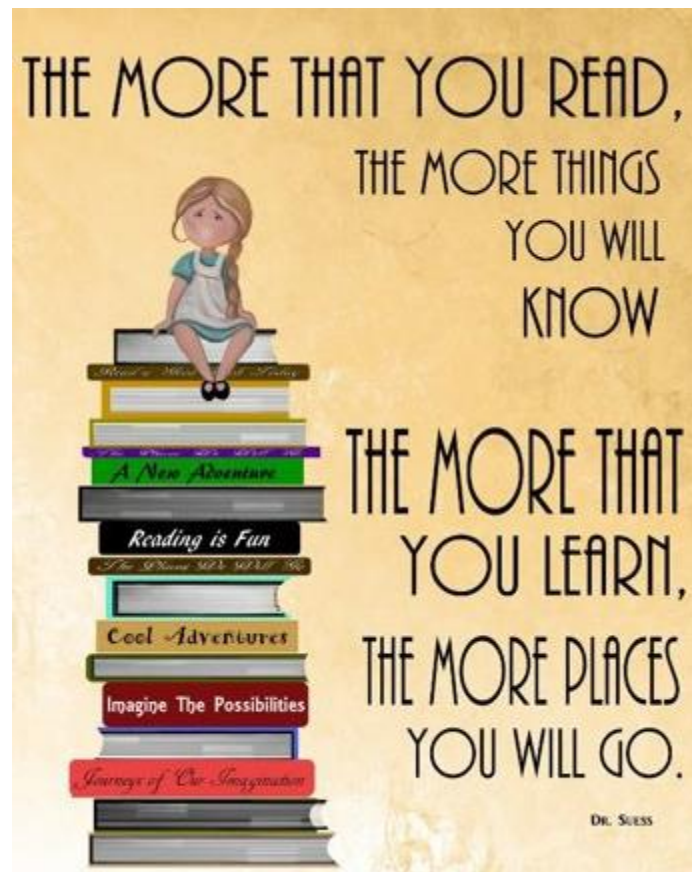


Reading with Your Child at Home



Support for Parents

Why should you read with your child?

Reading at home with your child is a crucially important way to support their learning. Reading books together, reading to your child, hearing them read, discussing reading techniques, stories, poems and non-fiction texts are all ways in which you can support your child to develop into an able and accomplished reader and writer. It also helps children:

- Understand the world around them.
- Develop social and emotional skills.
- Improve at school in English, science, maths and other subjects.
- Build confidence with communication.
- Strengthen their bond with you and other family members.

It is important that children are given the opportunity to read aloud to an adult as often as possible as this improves their decoding and fluency skills. You should help your child to sound out and blend any unfamiliar words and, if they are still unsure, tell them the word and explain its meaning. Reading the sentence aloud again reinforces their understanding and aids fluency.

You may find older children feel that they enjoy reading on their own more and prefer to read in their head instead of aloud to an adult. If your child is a confident reader, your focus as a parent should be more on discussion of the text to ensure comprehension and fostering an environment where sharing reading experiences and opinions about books is valued.

What if your child is a reluctant reader?

Reading to your child is equally as important as hearing them read aloud. Having your child hear you read will enable them to be exposed to a range of texts which in turn can encourage their own independent love of reading. This

shared reading can develop into times where you take turns to read a page each which can enable you to support segmenting and blending of unknown words and create a discussion about the text being shared.

Below is a list of possible questions which you can use to begin a discussion about the text and will allow you to see how much of the story your child is understanding.

General reading:

- 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?
- Have you read any other books/poems by this author? Did you like them as much? Why/Why not?
- 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?
- Do you enjoy reading? What would help you to enjoy it more?
- What kinds of books would you like to read more of? Why?

Understanding:

- Could you tell me what's happened so far (fiction) or what this book is about (non-fiction)?
- What has been the most exciting part? Why?
- Can you tell me what has happened in this chapter/on this page?

Inference:

- 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?

Words and language:

- 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?

Author choice:

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 is the effect of writing in the past/present tense?
- What do you notice about the way this page is set out?
How does that help us to understand better?

Useful Websites:

<https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/primary-parents/learn-at-home/help-your-child-to-enjoy-reading/why-is-reading-so-important.html>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/choosing-books/>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/top-100>