



# Inspiring Young Readers

## Years R, 1 and 2

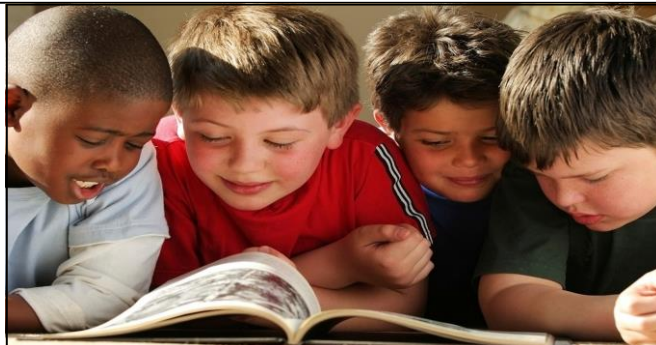
### Why Read?

Confident readers do well in school and their reading skills will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

The better we are at reading, the easier life is.

Children who know what fun books are and how interesting they can be will be keen to learn to read.

Parents and carers can help by sharing lots of books with children from an early age, and by hearing and helping their children read when they start school.



### We learn to read for all kinds of reasons

To make us  
laugh

To relax and  
escape

To help us make  
decisions

Finding out about  
things

To follow  
instructions

## Reading Is Everywhere

### Out and About:

street signs  
traffic signs      shop signs  
café menus      posters  
at the park      at the seaside  
at the petrol station

### In the Home:

comics  
shopping lists      magazines  
food labels      car manuals  
instruction booklets  
take-away menus  
newspapers

## Talking and Listening is Great!

Show interest in what your child does and ask them questions about it

Share conversation with your child and give them time to reply

Chat about news, stories, magazines, films or the TV

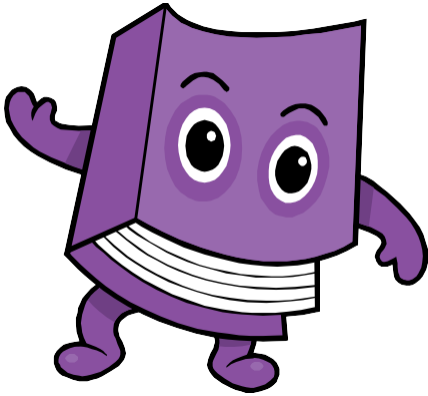
To become expert readers children need to be good at having conversations!



## Tips for sharing a book with a child

- Follow your child's interests.
- Boys often love science fiction, action stories and humour.
- Read to your child with expression.
- Bring story characters alive with different voices.
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement.
- We all learn much better when we feel our efforts are valued.
- Talk about the story and the pictures along the way
- Ask what might happen next, or make up your own endings
- Use contents and indexes when researching for information
- Ask your child what they would like to find out

**A few minutes spent together every day with a book will help your child for the rest of their life!**



## Bringing Books Alive!

Children love games and activities linked to favourite books

### Fun ideas to try:

#### Story Character Puppets

Choose a favourite book character and make a puppet to play with. Decorate old socks, small paper bags, lollipop sticks or wooden spoons. Stick on buttons, wool for hair, or use colourful paper and felt tip pens to draw faces. Make them sad, funny, gruesome or scary. Tell a story with your puppet and give him a funny voice!

#### Treasure Hunt

Ask an adult to choose objects from a favourite story eg 3 teddy bears, a doll, 3 bowls of different sizes, a dolls house, a packet of porridge. Ask the adult to hide the objects around the garden. Can you guess which story the objects are from? Try re-telling the story using the objects to help you.

#### Making your own books

Make a book about yourself and your family. Use photographs for illustrations. Write an exciting story with an adult's help using yourself as the main character!

Cut out pictures from comics and magazines and use these to illustrate your own home-made books.

Try making pop-up books or books with pictures hidden under flaps.

Make an information book about something you are really interested in and do some research on the internet. Show it to your friends!

#### Talking Books

Talking books and CD's are handy to have in the car, in the kitchen, or anywhere children can listen and join in.

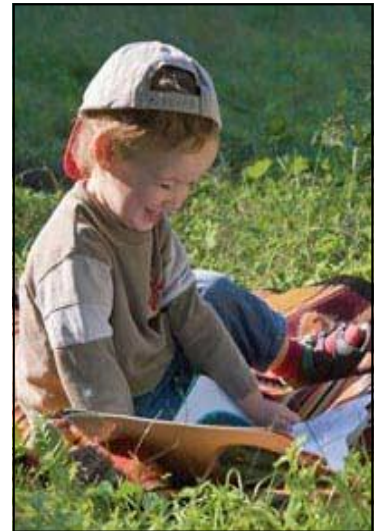
Songs and rhymes are a great way for children to learn language.

Try humorous poetry. Children love funny poems!



## How to help your child become a fluent reader

- Children need to know the sound each letter or group of letters make. Many new words can be sounded out.
- Long words can be split down into shorter sections eg window = win-dow, rainbow = rain-bow.
- Try going back to the beginning of the sentence, read the sentence again and fit in a word that makes sense in the place of the tricky word.
- Don't linger too long on "tricky words" or your child will lose the meaning of the sentence and lose interest!
- Read the book to your child with lots of expression. They will listen and soon learn to do the same.
- Ask lots of questions so that they are really having to listen to the meaning of the words.



## Questions often asked by parents

*How does a picture book help my child to read?*

Discussing the pictures widens your child's vocabulary.

Sequencing pictures helps your child to order story events.

*My child doesn't enjoy reading*

Take them to a local library or book shop and show them books that follow their interests.

Read aloud to your child showing them your enjoyment and capture their imagination.

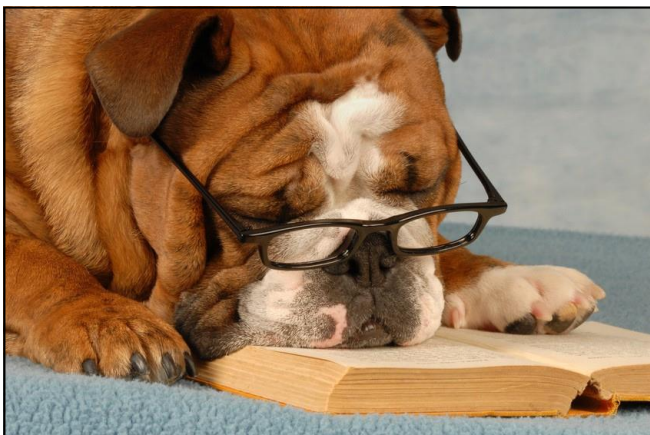
Link reading with favourite hobbies e.g football, dinosaurs, space.

*How do I know my child is understanding what they are reading?*

Ask them lots of questions.

*What if my child keeps wanting the same book again and again?*

It's good to have favourite books and reading familiar stories gives confidence. Enjoy a favourite book with them and introduce them to new ones at the same time.



## Useful Websites for Ideas and Games

[www.readtogether.co.uk](http://www.readtogether.co.uk)

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies)

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)