



Blackwell School

Responsibility

Respect

Compassion

Courage

How to support your child with READING in Early Years

Responsibility:
make good choices
because your
actions matter

Compassion:
show care and
understanding for
everyone



Courage:
be brave; believe
you can

Respect:
value everyone
and everything in
how you listen,
speak and in what
you do

10 Tips on Hearing Your Child Read

As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else.

3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead, allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No, that's wrong,' but 'let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

6. Visit the Library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly.

7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

8. Communicate

Your child will have a reading diary from school. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

9. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books.

What if my child gets stuck?

1. Use letter sounds to build up the word. Say each sound and then blend them together to read the word. Go back and read the word again at the end of the page.
2. Use the pictures to help work out what the word says. Go back and read the word again at the end of the page.
3. Read the whole sentence using only the initial letter sound. This will often give the child a clue from which they can work out the word. Go back and read the word again at the end of the page.
4. If you have tried all the other strategies, tell them the word. Go back and read the word again at the end of the page.
5. Always find something to praise.

Be calm and encouraging

This is often easier said than done.

1. Try not to get cross or impatient at what seems to you to be silly mistakes.
2. Remember how difficult it can be to learn new things.
3. Try to be relaxed and gently encouraging.
4. Make sharing books a pleasure not a chore.
5. Remember that a few children find learning to read easy, but most find it hard at times.
6. Some children find the first stages of reading hard most of the time, so try to build up their confidence.
7. Remember that reading with children can be done by dads, nans and granddads as well as mums.

8. Always find something to praise.



Listening to more confident readers

Confident readers need your attention in a different way.

1. More able readers often want to read for longer periods so renegotiate a time which works for both of you.
2. Encourage them to read with expression making appropriate use of punctuation.
3. Discuss the content of the story and make predictions.
4. Discuss whether or not they like the story and why. Do not accept, "It is boring" as a reason for not liking the story. If they find it boring they need to express an opinion as to why it is boring.
5. Let them see you reading your own books, comics, papers and magazines.
6. Be prepared to express your own opinions about their books and your own choice of reading materials.

Always find something to praise

1. Remembering a word that they had previously found difficult.
2. Remembering a word from the previous day.
3. A tricky word which they have managed to work out for themselves.
4. A good try at a difficult word.
5. Able to self-correct.
6. Using punctuation correctly.
7. Reading clearly with expression and understanding.
8. Answering questions about the book.
9. Do not praise for reasons which are not true, the children will see through it and correct praise will have less value.
10. Ensure that the child feels good about themselves at the end of the experience.