

How you can help at home - KS1



- Reading should be fun
- Regular practice will help your child become a better reader and grow in confidence
- When you sit down together try to create a happy, light-hearted atmosphere
- Make sure that your reading sessions do not become boring - read little and often

What to read

- Reading books that the children bring home from school;
- Comics and magazines;
- Old, familiar favourites;
- Books on a topic or theme that interest the children.

Any of these can be listed in the reading partnership book.

When to read

- Little and often is a good way;
- Try to read together four or five times a week;
- Chose a time when other activities can be forgotten about for a while;
- Avoid times when your child feels overtired or when there are likely to be interruptions.

Where to read

- Find somewhere comfortable where you can sit beside each other and look at the book together;
- If possible sit somewhere quiet.
- Try not to compete with favourite television programmes!

If your child has read their book quickly, you might want to challenge them by asking them to complete one of the activities listed below:

- Write a description of the main character - their looks, the way they dress, the way they talk and their personality.
- Write down what a character might be thinking or feeling at any stage of the story.
- Predict when you are half way through a book what might happen.
- Write down some words that you had difficulty reading and had not met before. Find their meanings in a dictionary and write them down.
- Write about your favourite part of the book and why you liked it.
- Write three facts that you have learned from a non-fiction book.
- Write whether you would recommend the book or not, or why.

The types of questions you could ask your child before, during and after reading are:

Knowledge

Knowledge questions help children recall or revise material that has already been covered.

- ✓ Where is the story set?
- ✓ When did the story take place?
- ✓ Who are the main characters?
- ✓ What does the main character look like?
- ✓ How does the story begin?
- ✓ Where in the book would you find...?

Comprehension

Comprehension questions help children to clarify their understanding of the main points of a story.

- ✓ What is happening?
- ✓ What might this mean?
- ✓ Who is telling the story?
- ✓ Which part of the story did you like best?
- ✓ Which parts of the story describe the setting?
- ✓ What is the problem faced by the character?

Application

Application questions help children to transfer knowledge learned in one context to another.

- ✓ Can you think of another story with a similar theme?
- ✓ Can you think of another story character who acted in this way?
- ✓ Have you ever had an experience like this?
- ✓ Have you read a story that begins in the same way as this one?
- ✓ If you were to write your own opening, what ideas would you borrow from this story?

Analysis

Analysis questions help children to think more deeply about mood, characters, setting, expression opinions and preferences, inferring and deducing and referring to the text for evidence.

- ✓ What makes you think...?
- ✓ How do you feel about ...? Can you explain why?
- ✓ What do these words mean and why did the author choose them?
- ✓ How has the author used description to show that this character is happy/afraid etc?
- ✓ What evidence do you have to support your view?

Synthesis

Synthesis questions help children to develop a critical stance based on information from a range of sources; to take an idea from one context and apply it to another.

- ✓ What is your opinion about..?
- ✓ What evidence do you have to back up your opinion?
- ✓ Using the evidence available, what do you think about...?
- ✓ What would the main character think about...?
- ✓ If you were the main character, how would you have reacted to...?
Why?
- ✓ How do you know?

Evaluation

Evaluation questions help children to make judgments, compare and contrast and develop reasoning based on evidence.

- ✓ What makes a successful story? What evidence do you have?
- ✓ Which one is better? Why?
- ✓ Could the story have been improved? How?
- ✓ Do you think the ending was effective?
- ✓ Was this character believable?
- ✓ Who would enjoy reading this story why?



...really enjoyed
this book.

...read well and with
expression.

Found these words
difficult...

...sounded out some
of the words.

...could retell the story.

**Here are some ideas of what you could write
in the comments box:**

...needs to read more
slowly because they made
simple mistakes.

...was able to
answer the
questions I asked
about the

...used the pictures to
help with difficult
words.

... found this
difficult, so we read
the story together.

You could also add:

Did they read too fast?

Did they put any extra words in?

Were they too hesitant?

Did they go back and correct their mistakes?



Did they miss any words out?

Could they manage to answer the question you asked about their book?

Did they read any of their words back to front?

Can they handle their book properly?