

10 Tips on Hearing Your Child Read



We very much value the important and significant part that parents and carers play, in helping the children at Longhoughton CE First School in their progress with learning to read.

Here are a few suggestions on how to make the 'reading-at-home' time 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 or tired. It is often helpful to look together at the book first of all, commenting on the pictures and the title - as this will give support for successful reading of the book.

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'. For children in the early stages of learning to read, it is helpful to encourage them to point at the words, as this supports them in tracking the words on the page.

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 then 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. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best. Teachers have limited time to hear children read individually.

7. Communicate

Your child will have a reading diary that is kept in his or her book bag. Do use this for communicating with the class teacher, noting down positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

8. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. 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. Some of the reading scheme books have suggestions, on the back page, for questions that could be asked.

9. Make use of the public Library

Few things in life are free - but the local library is! Please join our local library and make use of the wonderful children's section. The library also offers children's activities and events, from time to time. There is the Community Library at The Beacon and Alnwick Library on Green Batt.

10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials. If possible, please give your child opportunity to experience this through a range of picture books, comics, magazines, poems and information books. To help with this, your child will be bringing home a chosen book from our school library. Also, the public library has a wide selection of story and information books, and bargain books can be found in charity shops. In addition, we could perhaps consider offering parents and carers the loan of picture books and bedtime story books from our school library - and please let us know if you would be interested in this.