

- Continue to read increasingly harder books aloud to your children so they can maintain a love of books and develop their comprehension skills by listening to a variety of books and style of writing.
- Make your own books together using photos from family occasions and adding your own captions.
- If your home language is not English, make or read dual language books together.
- Think about encouraging reading at all times not just with books, for example play board games that involve reading clues or directions, using foam letters in the bath or magnetic letters on the fridge to make and read words
- Use websites for playing language games such as 'phonicsplay' or for reading 'e books' such as 'oxford owl'.
- Play with words by rhyming, finding opposites, thinking of words that have similar meanings like hot and scorching. These types of activities give practice with thinking and vocabulary development.
- Please let us know what reading or reading activities you have shared with your child through comments in their reading diaries. Please see our guide to 'questions to ask children about their reading' if you would like more ideas about this aspect.
- Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as waiting for a bus, a dentist appointment.
- Children succeed well in homes where they are a lot of books; use charity shops, car boot sales, libraries, book swaps with friends to increase your book collections.

It is important children see all members of the family enjoy reading books, magazines, newspapers etc. so have fun and enjoy all your reading experiences.



Meadowside Parent/Carer guide to supporting your child with

Reading



Developing Readers

Children learn to read best when they have books and other reading materials at home and plenty of chances to read. This means not only having lots of books around but many chances to read and talk about what they are reading. To be successful readers, children need to do a lot of reading and as parents or carers you have a great role to play in this. It is good to have a regular routine for sharing books, many families find before bed each night is a good time, but for other families there are different times that may work better, like after tea or before school. The important thing is that it happens regularly and that it's a positive experience and not perceived as a chore.

In this guide we will give you some pointers about how you can help support your child with developing their reading skills.

- As with many things we learn how to do, we tend to learn from others who have already mastered the skill or task. The same is true for reading. Children need to see others reading, they need to hear stories read, ask questions, and talk about what they read both at school and at home.
- Children must be interested and motivated to learn to read. It is important for children to be able to select materials to read that are interesting to them on topics they care about and can relate to. Follow your child's interests, if he or she loves sports, find fiction and nonfiction books that tie into this interest.
- Background knowledge and prior experiences are really important to the reading process. As we read, we base our understanding on what we already know. Take time to talk about the title, the picture on the cover, read the blurb on the back together and have a chat about what the book might be about or link it to your family's personal experiences before you expect your child to start reading.

- Read the comments that the teacher has made in the reading diary about what they have been focussing on in guided reading sessions, or maybe in an individual reading session, so you can focus on similar things to reinforce these skills.
- As an adult we use pictures to help make sense of what we are reading and to make reading more enjoyable, think about magazines, recipes, car manuals so please don't cover the pictures when your child is reading. It is important children use pictures to help them have a fuller understanding and make reading more enjoyable.
- It is fine to read books several times, especially if your child enjoys it. Each time a child reads a book it will give him or her increased confidence with their independent reading skills.
- When children come across an unknown word it can be tempting to give them the word straight away. However please try not to tell them immediately give them time to use the strategies they have been taught to try to work it out independently first and then give support if they are still unsure. Strategies may be one or more of the following: blending sounds together, looking for 'chunks' in the word, re-reading from the beginning of the sentence or missing word out reading rest of sentence and coming back to it, looking for clues within the pictures.
- Sometimes take turns in reading alternate pages to model fluency and expression and keep the flow of the story.
- Encourage your child to read to different audiences, maybe friends, brothers or sisters or grandparents. Sometimes children are more expressive when they are reading to an audience they feel less 'threatened' by for example the family pet or some toys!

