

## Discussing reading

- Whatever your child is reading it's good to check that they are grasping the deeper levels of meaning (why things happen or how things work). Ask them to tell you about what they are reading, retell parts of the story, explain a specific section or make connections. Don't forget to explore words and vocabulary with your child too, using dictionaries in print or online.
- Find out about things they are reading alone by asking non-threatening questions like, "What's happening in your book now?" or "What are the characters like in the book you are reading?"
- Talking about stories, poems and information books can help your child to understand a book in different ways. It's not just about what's happened or who did what, so talk about the issues, what a book means to your child and whether they think there are any less obvious meanings that the author wants us to spot. You could look at our guide on 'questions to ask children about their reading' for more ideas.

Most importantly, continue to enjoy what you do together, give lots of encouragement and expand the reading experience to keep your child switched on. Encourage your children be resilient in their reading, as not all books are easy to get into straight away. However, if you feel your child has made a wrong book choice and is not enjoying the reading, despite given the book a good chance, it is okay to read something else. Reading has really got to be a pleasant experience if you want your child to keep reading.



# Meadowside Parent/Carer guide to supporting your child with

## Reading



More Fluent Readers

Once children can read fairly independently there is sometimes a thought that you no longer need to support them with their reading. However this is not the case. Children at all ages and stages of reading benefit from the support you can give them.

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

### What to read

- Children learn to read best when they have books and other reading materials at home and plenty of chances to read.
- Children must be interested and motivated to improve their reading. 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. Find books that link to their favourite films movies and television shows. Maybe reading electronic books such as using a Kindle, would be more motivating option if you have one or listening to e books, such as on the Oxford Owl website. Remember reading doesn't just have to be books choose magazines, comics, newspapers, cereal boxes, anything that your child is interested in!
- Try to promote reading skills in a purposeful way. Encourage your child to prepare simple meals and dishes from recipes, and read timetables or guides for television, buses or trains.
- Play games that involve reading and thinking about words e.g. Monopoly, Scattergories, Scrabble, Boggle or completing crossword puzzles.
- It's important to still visit book shops, libraries and places where your child can browse and chat with you about their interests. They'll start to prefer certain authors or series, or types of



reading such as comics, magazines or websites, and with your encouragement, they can learn to make choices for themselves.

- It continues to be really important to value your child's choices even when it wouldn't be your first choice. Children often enjoy reading series of books, such as *Beast Quest*, or *Rainbow Magic*, or books by one author, e.g. Jacqueline Wilson, and these really help with their reading pace and stamina. However, over time it's a good idea to try to gently move them on to keep their reading experience fresh and broad.
- If your child is asked to research a topic for homework, talk to them about how they will tackle the task. Remind them to look in books and use the library as well as the internet. Talk to them about how you decide what to use and what to reject - as well as how you know how to trust sources

### When to read with children

- As children are building up their fluency and expression it's still really important that your child continues to read aloud to you. You might wish to share the reading so you are reading some parts as a good model. The emphasis will be on reading fluently and with expression, understanding more complex plots and broadening their vocabulary as well as building an understanding of how punctuation and grammar are used.
- Keep reading aloud to your child books that are longer and more difficult than he or she can read independently. Children still learn vocabulary and information about the world when books are read aloud.
- As your child gets older it might get increasingly difficult to make time for the 'bedtime reading experience' now but it's still really useful and enjoyable; reading to your child, listening to your child read, leaving them to read alone and listening to audio books are all valuable. Try to chat informally about reading and swap ideas about good reads.