



Helping your child learn.

Supporting your child.

Why do I need to help my child with reading?

The move from primary to secondary is an exciting time for parents and children, however we appreciate that you may worry about the extra demands of secondary school and wonder what you can do to help your child succeed.

One of the best ways to help your child achieve at school is to help them enjoy reading for pleasure: whether they like newspapers, magazines, noels or comics. Research shows that children who read for pleasure do better at school and also that parents play a key role in developing a love of reading.

RESEARCH FINDINGS: Reading means achieving!

Recent research into the reading skills of 15 year olds across the world found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than children who don't read for pleasure. The study also found that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help keep their children interested in reading.

Studies also suggest that having newspapers, books and magazines around at home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading.

Instant ideas for helping your child to love reading.

- Let your child choose what to read rather than choosing what you they should read.
- Encourage your child to read magazines, newspapers, comics and the internet as well as books.
- Talk to your child about books or magazines you haven't enjoyed as well as ones you did.
- Make time to read together.
- Buy books as presents. Remember many TV shows and films have book tie ins; there are also many books which link to computer games or music.
- Remember that reading is happening when your child is looking at bus timetables, menus, instructions, TV guides, the internet and Delete.

Supporting your child across the curriculum!

INSTANT IDEAS:

- Try some skimming and scanning together. Skimming is where you read through a piece through a piece of text quickly to find out what the main idea is; scanning is glancing through a piece to find a specific piece of information. This can be done with a newspaper, asking you child to scan to find information about a favourite footballer or to find out the weekend weather or get them to skim read a recipe to tell you the basic steps.
- Help you child to work out what unfamiliar words might mean by reading the rest of the sentence and looking for clues.
- Help by testing children on their spellings. Encourage them to look up words they don't know in a dictionary.

TRY MAKING TIME TO:

- Build up the number of words your child knows- vocabulary. As they progress through the year groups student will need to use more specialist terminology. Asking them to explain these terms will help them learn these words. Key words will be recorded in exercise books.
- Read books or plays that your child will study. For example, in English, students begin the year by looking at extracts from 1984 by George Orwell.
- Borrow videos of Shakespeare plays or films lined to topics of cross curricular study.

Questions and Anxieties.

I am really busy and don't have time to read with my child. What can I do?

10 minutes a day or even a few times a week will make a real difference to your child's reading. The quick ideas on the previous page have activities that can be done quickly.

My child doesn't like reading. What can I do?

Try to find things for them to read that are linked to their interests. Let them choose what to read, as much as you can. Magazines, comics and non fictions (fact) books might be more interesting to your child than stories.

Reading activities such as programming a DVD player or computer, using the instructions are equally valid. If your child is interested in computer games there are books on how to play the game and 'cheats'.

Praise your child for any reading they do and keep any reading short and fun.

My child will only read magazines not books.

Don't worry. Evidence shows that children who enjoy reading for pleasure perform better at school whether they are reading books, magazines, newspapers or comics. You could offer suggestions of books they might enjoy based on the magazines they read or areas of interests.

Website such as www.cool-reads.co.uk has reviews of books for 10-15 year olds.