

Why read at home with your child?

- ✓ Enjoying and sharing books with your child is a great time for bonding, talking and sharing.
- ✓ Sharing books helps with vocabulary development and concentration.
- ✓ Exposure to a wide range of books (not just their school “reading book”) helps them to develop language, ideas and a love of reading.
- ✓ Reading with your child promotes reading for pleasure as they see reading as a worthwhile activity.
- ✓ You can share favourite stories from your own childhood and discover some new shared favourites.
- ✓ Reading regularly with your child is the biggest indicator of future academic success.
- ✓ Children who grow up in households where there are books readily available (either library books or owned books) go on to outperform their peers up to age 16. They also remain in education for an average of three years longer.
- ✓ Children whose parents frequently read with them in the first years of school are still showing the benefit when they are 15.
- ✓ Discounting any social differences, young children who read regularly at home will remain ahead in reading.
- ✓ Parents do not need to be expert readers themselves to have a positive impact on their children. Involvement in reading is what counts. Reading for pleasure and involvement with reading is more important in terms of children’s development than their parents own level of education.
- ✓ Children as young as 7 are now more likely to own a mobile phone than a book.
- ✓ Keeping just 20 books at home can boost a child’s chances of doing well in school.
- ✓ 85.5% of pupils aged 7-16 own a mobile phone but only 72% own a book.
- ✓ 1 in 20 youngsters have never chosen to read a whole book for pleasure.
- ✓ 46% of children in a national survey said they would like their parents to read with them more often.

Findings taken from:

OECD analysis 2011 (organisation for economic cooperation and development)

Readers’ Digest study

Research in Social Stratification and Mobility Journal

National Literacy Trust

Booktrust

How do I read with my child?

- Simply reading aloud regularly to your child is enough.
- Read a wide range of books and talk about the plot, the characters, the setting and the exciting bits. Look at the pictures together and see what you can spot.
- Do funny voices and don't be shy; no one will hear you except your child!
- Read with your child at a calm time of day with no other distractions such as the TV, tablet, phone or radio.
- They're never too old for a cuddle whilst you read or a sit on your lap (even in Y6!)
- Reading aloud to KS2 children is just as important as in KS1. They need to hear new words read aloud to them and hear more complicated sentences modelled. A bedtime story read by an adult is just as necessary at aged 11 as at aged 4. Picking a book which is just above their own reading ability and then sharing a chapter every night can be a great time for chatting and bonding with your older KS2 child. Or, let them read a chapter to you – who can do the best voices?
- If you're both not enjoying a book – switch. Talk about why you both don't like it and try another book from the list.
- Keep on reading and have as many books as possible in the house. Visit the library regularly or pick up bargain second hand books at fetes, charity shops and jumble sales. Ask "Santa" for special books to keep which you can then share together throughout the year. Family members often love to purchase books they have loved for their younger relatives.
- Visit bookshops together when in town. Spend time looking at all the different children's titles. Most big bookshops encourage families to flick through the books and don't mind a bit of noise and excitement; they also don't always expect you to make a purchase.
- Encourage as many different people as possible in the family to read with your child. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings etc all count as reading with your child and the more people they see reading and who they read with, the more practice they are getting and the more likely they are to carry on reading.
- Don't just read your child's reading book. These are to practise reading skills and do little to extend vocabulary and develop a love of reading. Read these to practise your child's reading but read widely and regularly with other books to develop a love of reading

