

- ◇ **“Pause, prompt, praise”** is useful to remember if the child stops at a word, let them think for 5 seconds and then suggest various ways of working it out, eg:

- picture cues
- the sound of the first letter
- reading on and then guessing the word by using clues in the sentence.

You do not need to use all of these for every word, only the ones you feel would be most helpful. The most important thing is that you praise the child when a sensible attempt is made, or the word is correct.

- ◇ If you or your child become irritated or frustrated, finish the session quickly **without damaging the child’s confidence.**
- ◇ Try to give some **feedback** to the class teacher in their Home Learning Journal or Reading Record, which you have discussed with your child.
- ◇ **Always try and finish with a positive comment.**

Here are some useful links:

<https://blog.oxfordowl.co.uk/five-ways-to-encourage-reluctant-readers/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/making-time-for-books-at-home>

Choosing the right book with your child is key:

There is lots of advice online and at your local library. Here is a link which provides a list for each age group, with information about each book:

- <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>
- <http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>

Remember: Regular visits to your local library are a way of accessing many wonderful books to inspire your child for free.



Highwood Primary School



How to help your child with reading

We value the support you can give your child at home and would like to suggest the following ideas to make it an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

Keep this book as a source of advice for you and your child as you read together at home.



Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day. Make it a nurturing and bonding time for you and your child.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go”

Dr Seuss

Helping your child with reading

- * Think of ways to make reading fun - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be! You could act it out and use funny voices, for example.
- * Be a role model and let your child see you reading: for pleasure, for information and for purpose. Show that you read a range of different things for a variety of reasons.
- * When encouraging your child to read, try to ensure they do it at a time when they are not too tired or hungry or busy playing. Help them to see it as a leisure activity not a chore.
- * Take your child to the Library and choose books together.
- * Continue to read aloud to your child and talk about what you are reading to develop their reading comprehension. Young children often like to share the same book over and over again, but this repetition is really beneficial for developing their fluency and comprehension.
- * Even when your child can read fluently it is still important to hear them read aloud to develop their use of expression, an awareness of punctuation and the use of an appropriate pace.
- * Children of all ages enjoy picture books. Please do not consider them to be too “easy” for your child but, instead, make the most of them. Pictures help to develop children’s imagination and comprehension.
- * Talk about the book with your child, and ask questions, such as: What has just happened? Why did they do that? What would you do? What will happen next? What did you like in the story?
- * Please remember that children develop at different rates and avoid comparisons with other children, including siblings. Please discuss any concerns you may have with the class teacher. Try not to let your child see that you are worried, as this can cause anxiety.

A guide to hearing your child read



- ◇ Keep it short and regular: 10 minutes every day is better than one hour once a week.
- ◇ If your child is learning their “Teddy” and “Rocket” high frequency words, help them practise these regularly. These words need to be learnt by sight.
- ◇ Do not force a child to read but do take advantage of times when they are keen to read.
- ◇ You will need somewhere quiet and comfortable, try and make reading a special time together without distractions such as TV and radio.
- ◇ Before beginning to read, discuss the story so far, look at the pictures on the cover of a new book or talk about why they chose the book.
- ◇ Make sure the child starts reading at a suitable place, eg at the beginning of a chapter, paragraph or sentence.
- ◇ Listen carefully when the child is reading.
- ◇ Keep it a happy experience and give plenty of praise. You could take it in turns to read. Avoid feeling under pressure to finish the book too quickly with your child.
- ◇ Fluency is important if the child is to understand what is being read. You can help this by:
 - Telling the child an unknown word if you feel it would be too distracting to stop and work it out.
 - Reading and re-reading a section of the book to the child to improve their understanding.
 - Not correcting a child continually if mistakes don’t change the meaning of the text.