

Help Your Child

Become a



Confident



Reader

The gift of reading is a wonderful thing to give your child. It will help them throughout their life, both in school and later at work.



There are lots of simple things that you as a parent can do at home that will make a huge difference and really help your child on the path to being a confident reader for life. This guide will give you some idea how you can do this.

Start From the Very Beginning

You can start helping your child develop the skills they need to be good readers as soon as they are born.



You can do this by:

- Talking to them
- Telling them stories
- Pointing things out and naming them
- Singing songs and rhymes to them
- Showing them rag books, board books, pop up or flap books.
- Reading to them.
- Having fun playing with words.

By hearing you talk they pick up patterns of language. By becoming aware of things around them they start to be interested in their surroundings and learn vocabulary they will meet in books. By watching you read and holding books they will learn how they work and learn to turn the pages.

As They Get Ready For School

As your child gets older there are still lots of things you can do to help them. Teaching them songs and rhymes that you can say or sing together is fun but also helps them to learn the patterns that words can make and develops memory.



When you are out and about point out words that can be seen in shops, on lorries, on street signs and on posters. This helps your child understand that reading is useful and important.



Playing games like I- spy at home or in the car encourages your child to play with words and helps them start to hear the sounds that individual letters make in words.



You could put labels on things in your home or have magnetic letters on the fridge to make words that are important to your child like their name.

It is particularly important that your child sees you reading books and magazines too. This shows them that reading is a good thing to do and they will want to copy you.



Use the local library

Take your child to the library and let them choose which picture books they would like to share at home. It is free to join and you can explore hundreds of books together at no cost.



Be guided by your child's interests at first but then try and introduce a range of different types of text such as:

- Picture books and stories,
- traditional tales, such as - The Three Little Pigs
- non- fiction or information books
- rhyming stories
- poetry and rhymes
- activity books

Each type of text will introduce your child to new ideas and ways of using language and pictures.

Reading To Your Child

When you read to your child let them sit with you so that they can see the words and pictures. Every book offers lots of opportunities for learning so try and make reading to your child a special fun time that they look forward to **each** day.



Be prepared to:

- Point to the words as you read.
- Stop and talk about what you have read.
- Discuss the pictures, naming things
- Help your child take an active role, by asking them to find and point to things in the pictures or find words in the text they know.
- Answer your child's questions and listen to what they say.
- Remind them of experiences they have had that are similar to those you are reading about.

Learning to Read – How You Can Help

Learning to read is hard work. Once your child starts to learn to read they need to practise every day. When your child reads to you, do it at a time when you can both be relaxed and enjoy the experience. Make sure you can both see what is being read.



Do it :

- Every day, if possible
- Cheerfully, with a sense of fun and support
- Somewhere that is quiet without distraction
- For only a short time, 5 to 10 minutes is ideal
- When you can be relaxed and enjoy the time together.

Praise and encourage your child as they read .You don't always have to say anything, just a nod or smile can be enough. When you do say something, try to tell them what they did well – that way they know what to keep doing.

Getting Ready to Read a New Book

If you can, discuss your child's new reading book with them, before they try reading it to you. This will really help them start to understand what the story is about and makes reading easier and more focused.



- Talk about the title and the pictures on the books cover. What does your child think the book might be about?
- Look through the pictures together to get a sense of what might happen in the book and discuss what you think might happen in the story.
- Look out for any new or tricky words or phrases that you think might prove hard for your child. Point them out and practise reading them together before they try and read independently. This is not cheating its helping your child to learn new words and language patterns.

Reading Independently

When your child is reading try not to interrupt or correct them, unless they get stuck, or ask for help. Sometimes they just need time to work things out.

If your child does get stuck you can help them try to work it out for themselves by asking them to:

- Think about what word would make sense
- Use the pictures to look for clues
- Find the tricky word and look at the first letter.
- Check the ending of a word
- Try sounding out the letters - use their phonics
- Look for small words they know in a bigger word.



Don't let them struggle for a long time – it is okay to just tell them the word and get reading again. If a book seems too hard, try reading it to them first and then let them have a go afterwards.

Confident Readers

Confident readers enjoy reading and are able to talk about the books they read with understanding. They feel comfortable asking questions about the books they read and are not afraid to ask for help if they get stuck or do not understand something. So always try and find time, after they have read to you to chat about the book



Ask questions to check that your child has understood what they read – and let them ask you questions.

Useful questions to ask are:

- What was your favourite bit and why?
- Where there any new words in this book you didn't understand?
- Can you remember all the characters names in the story?
- Can you find any of their names on this page?
- Did you like the way the story ended?
- What do you think might happen next?

