

## Top tips for parents to support children to read

*"If you can encourage your child to read for pleasure, they will really reap the benefits. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.*

*Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others."*

Reading for pleasure - Oxford Owl for Home

In Early Years, all of our planning is carefully designed around a variety of books throughout the year. We also support reading by sharing stories at the end of the day, using story sacks and storytelling sessions. The children also have access to a variety of books in our reading corner that are changed regularly and within our provision, to match the activities they are engaging with.

How can you help at home?

If you read with your child at home, then you are supplementing what they learn in the classroom as well as giving them additional one-on-one support that the classroom cannot give every day.

### **1. Start young.**

Even babies can enjoy the colours / pictures in the book and listen to your voice. Read aloud to your child and point to the pictures on the page, saying the name of the objects that appear. This provides your child with two sources of information: an understanding of real-world objects and an understanding of the importance of language. Even when your child can read by themselves, you should still read aloud together for practice, to help them develop fluency and learn new vocabulary.

## **2. Encourage your child to read**

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

## **3. Read aloud regularly**

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

## **4. Encourage reading choice**

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

## **5. Read together**

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

## **6. Create a comfortable environment**

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

## **7. Make use of your local library**

Local libraries offer all sorts of books as well as online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow.

## **8. Talk about books**

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

## **9. Bring reading to life**

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

## **10. Make reading active**

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

## **11. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them**

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage

reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it

### Helpful links

\*Here is a link to oxford owl website where you can create a free account and access lots of ebooks. <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

\*Here is a link where you can access lots of story teller videos. [https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/storyteller-videos/storyteller-videos-traditional-  
tales/](https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/storyteller-videos/storyteller-videos-traditional-<br/>tales/)

Here is a link to BBC iplayer bed time stories where you can access a huge variety of stories

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00jdlm2/cbeebies-bedtime-stories>

Phonics and reading activities for free or sign up to subscription- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>