

ROYDON PRIMARY SCHOOL GUIDE TO READING



BE A READER FOR LIFE

GUIDELINES FOR READING AT HOME

At Roydon we consider that learning to read is one of the most important things children achieve in primary school. The purpose of this booklet is to explain how you can help.

INTRODUCTION

Reading is not only a skill to be learned at school, but also a pleasurable activity to be enjoyed both at school and home. As parents, your help and involvement in helping your child to read is of the greatest value.

While you are undertaking the activities suggested in this booklet, your child's teacher is doing similar things in the classroom, using many different types of reading material, not just the school reading book. Please remember that the scheme book is not the only book your child should be reading.

Our school has a large range of interesting fiction and non-fiction books. We also have a carefully structured reading scheme, combining books of many styles from different publishers. At home, do make sure that your child sees a purpose to reading newspapers, books, magazines, the internet and other reading matter. Also, remember to make full use of local libraries and book shops if possible.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Three things are happening when children read to an adult:-

- they are sharing the pleasure and enjoyment of reading itself;
- they are practising their developing skills with the support of a caring adult who can help out if difficulties arise;
- the adult is able to help the child appreciate the book by commenting and questioning, usually before and after reading.

TALKING

Talk with your child about anything and everything - his/her day in school, T.V programmes, places you have visited, etc. Telling our child stories, reciting poems and nursery rhymes will help enormously. Also encourage him/her to make up stories to tell you. Talk about the pictures in books as well as the plot. Pictures are just as important as the words and give children clues by showing them what is happening. Encourage your child to retell favourite stories in his/her own words, using the pictures as clues; through this he/she is learning how books work as well as experiencing the joy that books offer.

LISTENING

However busy you are, do try to find some time to listen to what your child has to say.

- Help him/her to listen to stories and other people's views;
- Listen to the sounds of letters and words;
- Try making up games, rhymes and songs to help him/her remember these sounds.



READING

Do read to your child. When you read, children learn that books are fun and will be keen to read for themselves.

The best time to read is when you and your child are relaxed and have some spare time - do try to read every day. When you are sharing books make sure your child can see the words. You can start to follow the print with your finger and your child may want to join in.

Even when a child has become quite skilled at reading, he/she will still benefit from hearing books read aloud. Carry on reading to your child as long as he/she is keen to listen.



SETTING THE SCENE

- choose a time when both want to read
- sit side by side in a **quiet** room so you can both concentrate
- read the title of the book and have a look at the illustrations together

LISTENING TO YOUR CHILD READ

Always give your child as much praise as possible and say how much you enjoy listening to him/her read. Practice with praise makes perfect!

Early readers

- Let your child handle the book, looking from left to right, turning the pages and recognising that words and pictures tell a story.
- Make sure your child can see the print and the pictures as they help to give clues.
- Books without words also tell a story. Allow your child to tell him/her own story by reading the pictures.
- When reading together point to the words as they are read. Ask if the child wants you to read the words with him/her. When ready he/she will read the story with a little prompting from you.
- Sometimes the child will "read" the story themselves having memorised the words. This is an **important** step towards becoming a reader.
- If your child is stuck over a word say the whole word to keep the flow of the story going. When finished you may return to the difficult word and re-read the word.



Developing readers

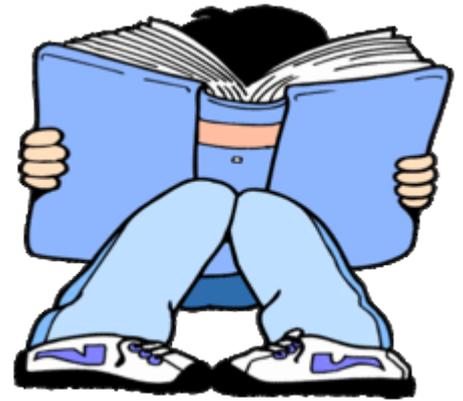
Look through the book together and talk about the story so far; or if it is a new book try to remember the previous story in the series.

When reading he/she may come across an unknown word. Children need several seconds to puzzle it out ...

1. Point to the picture if it gives a clue.
2. Ask for the initial sound of the word, e.g. "mmm" not "M".
3. If the word splits into phonic sounds or word families blend the sounds together e.g. sh ee p , cl ou d , en vel ope
4. Try asking him/her to miss out the word and read to the end of the text.
5. When the word is known to go back and read the text again.

Independent readers

- Look through the book together and talk about the story so far. If it is a new book ask why it was chosen. Draw attention to the author, illustrator and publisher of the book.
- If your child wants to read aloud to you, listen for expressive, fluent reading and encourage it.
- Your child may wish to read silently, so let him/her do so without any interruptions.
- Afterwards discuss what has been read, talk about the characters and the story line. Can they predict what may happen next and understand meanings beyond the literal, e.g. feelings, nuances, inferences, etc.?
- Help your child to look up the meanings of certain words in a dictionary.
- With non-fiction books look at the contents page, index and glossary.
- When looking for information help your child to skim or scan the text looking for key words.





SOME GENERAL POINTS

1. If you feel that you are becoming irritated - stop! The same applies if your child is getting tired. An enjoyable and relaxed five or ten minutes reading is much better than twenty minutes which is a struggle for either or both of you.
2. If your child is finding the book too difficult to read then help out by reading it together and inform the class teacher.
3. If your child's reading is very slow, you can help the "pace" of the story by sharing the reading e.g. Read alternate paragraphs or pages, or the child reads half page, adult reads 2 pages.



TAKING BOOKS HOME

When your child starts school it will be useful for them to have a book bag to protect their reading and library books. These can be purchased from the school office, and used throughout the school.

Please return the book bag to school every morning so that it is there when needed.

