

Reading at Battle Hill Primary School

A booklet to support reading
at home



Why read?

Sharing books with your child is fun!

It's a great way to build special memories and moments with your child and can easily become a favourite part of the day.

It also helps children

- * Understand the world around them
- * Develop social and emotional skills
- * Improve at English, Science, Maths and other subjects
- * Build confidence with communication
- * Strengthen bonds with you and other family members



Reading with your child...

Reading with your child can mean sharing books, stories, rhymes and any other forms of writing.

- * Read books together
- * Tell each other stories
- * Chat about things you have read
- * Talk about the pictures in books
- * Share stories, even when you don't have a book in front of you! Why not retell your favourite stories?



Hints and Tips

- * Set aside some time - find somewhere quiet without any distractions, turning off the TV/Playstation/computer
- * Read with your child every day. Reading aloud to a child, even before a baby can hold a book, stimulates their mind, helping build an appreciation for books
- * Ask your child to choose a book - knowing they have chosen shows you care about their opinion and means they are more likely to engage with the book. It doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction
- * Sit close together - encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages
- * Point to the pictures - relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation and predict what might happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures
- * Make reading meaningful. Show your emerging reader how reading and writing help you get things done each day - cooking, shopping, driving and so on
- * Model your own interest in reading by reading in front of your child often.

Hints and Tips

- * Visit the library often. This builds excitement into borrowing books. Make getting their first library card a special event
- * Read their favourite books over and over again. This allows them to internalise the structure and language of stories. Revisit books you loved as a child
- * Make reading a fun and positive experience, encouraging and praising your child
- * Enjoy bedtime stories - read with your children at bedtime as often as you can. It is a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with them
- * Make the most of rhyme and repetition - Books and poems with rhymes and repeated words or phrases are great for getting your kids to join in and remember the words



Stuck?

- * Phonics first! Try sounding it out.
- * Read the whole sentence. What word fits?
- * What does the word nearly sound like?
- * You said. "_____". Would that make sense? What would make sense?
- * It is ok to tell them the word! Do not lose the flow of reading or they may just lose interest.

Questions to ask...

Before reading your book

- * Why did you select this book?
- * What makes you think this book is going to be interesting?
- * What do you think the book is going to be about?
- * Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read or seen?
- * What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?
- * What do you think is going to happen?



Questions to ask...

During reading your book

- * Will you catch me up on the story?
What's happened so far?
- * What do you think will happen next?
- * If you were that character, what would you have done differently in that situation?
- * If the book was a TV show, which actors would you cast in it?
- * Where is the book set?
- * If the main character in that story lived next door, would you be friends?
- * What does the place look like in your head as you read? Would you want to visit there?
- * Did you learn any new words or facts so far?

Questions to ask...

After reading your book

- * What was your favourite part of the book? Why?
- * Who was your favourite character? Why?
- * What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?
- * Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- * Would you have ended the book differently? Did it end the way you thought it would?
- * Did the problem of the book's plot get solved?
- * If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be?

Help - my child does not like reading!

If your child doesn't like reading, there could be many factors at play. Here are some ideas to try to encourage your child to have a new outlook on reading:

- * Read with them. At any age, reading aloud can be fun and a good way to find topics and genres you have in common
- * Model reading yourself and talk with your child about what you're reading
- * Begin with audiobooks and encourage your child to read along with them
- * Encourage reading any material on any device. Make the most of e-reading apps, online articles, magazines or comics, in addition to books. If your child is a gamer, suggest books on their favourite video games
- * Take an interest in what interests your child and read about it. Share articles on their favourite sports teams or pull out a cookbook and explore recipes together