

Helping your child to read

There are many ways to help and encourage children through the early stages of learning how to read.

How?

If you. . . .	Children learn. . . .
read stories to your child and with your child.	that books are fun, interesting and enjoyable.
talk together about the pictures, the stories and the rhymes.	that we use the pictures and the text when we are reading.
listen and encourage your child to tell stories, to guess story endings or to think about happened before the story began.	how books work and get to know the sound of story language.
talk about how you read - titles, words, letters, moving across the page from left to right, and pointing to the print.	to use this knowledge when they are reading and writing their own stories.
join the public library	to choose their own books and they find out which kind of books they like.
read yourself, and show an interest in books, magazines and newspapers, and let your child see you as a reader.	Remember the monkeys?? <i>You</i> are the model for your children!
sit with your child whilst he/she is watching TV/video or using the computer and talk to your child about what they are watching or listening to.	to engage as participants in activities. This will develop their ability to express opinions, retell events etc.
point out print in the environment - timetables, labels, adverts, road signs, recipes, notices etc.	children learn that reading is useful. They learn about the importance of reading for information.

Why should YOU help to teach your child to learn?

- You are the child's most important teacher. You have taught them all they learned prior to starting school — walking, talking, dressing, appropriate behaviour, good manners, table manners and more!
- You can provide a more relaxed atmosphere.
- You can offer more 1:1 time with fewer interruptions.
- You have the closest relationship with your child, and the most intimate knowledge of them.



Where should you read?

- A quiet and comfortable place where there are no distractions, and no TV.

What should you read?

- Basically, anything that is fun, interesting and enjoyable.
- The child's own choice of reading material.
- Home-made books or booklets. (Please use small case letters and the correct school letter formation, using capital letters only for names and sentence beginnings.)
- Good story books and good pictures.

When should you read?

- Choose a time that is right for both of you. (Don't try to read whilst trying to feed the dog, or make the tea or the breakfast.)
- Do not read when the child is tired and cranky.



How to help your child develop early reading skills.

Once your child is happy to begin reading for themselves, you can help in many ways.

When your child is unsure, wait and let them try to work out the word themselves

- Draw attention to other clues; word beginnings/initial sounds)
- Miss out the difficult word and read to the end of the sentence - what word might fit?
- Ask them to guess the word (using pictures as clues)

Tips for reading with your child

Don't !!

- Expect the child to be word perfect. Enjoyment and comprehension are for more important.
- Learn words in isolation all the time (flash cards) but they can be used sometimes.
- Let reading become a chore.
- Push your child and expect too much in the early stages of reading. (Remember that ALL children are different and will progress at their own pace, so don't compare with other class members.)

Do!!

- Talk about the cover, pictures and story
- Read the page or story to your child
- Help with unfamiliar words
- Encourage gently
- Give lots of praise
- Ask for help if needed
- Read the book several times so that your child becomes familiar with the story and words
- Stop if the child has had enough
- Keep the session short (5-10 minutes)
- Ask the child's opinion of the book (what have they enjoyed or disliked or found amusing?)
- Point to the words as you read them and encourage the child to do the same.
- Read with expression
- Get your child into the reading habit
- Encourage your child to sound out words when they become confident with letters.

The main reading scheme used at St George's School is the Oxford Reading Tree. The following words are used most frequently in the early books. Flash cards can be used to help your child to recognise, learn and remember the words.

cross

it

said

Everyone *

It *

They *

got

made

to

had

pulled

wanted

He *

pushed

went

in

put

was

Kipper

Mum

Chip

Dad

Floppy

* Indicates that the children meet these words initially at the beginnings of sentences.

Year R National Literacy Strategy high frequency words

(YR children should be able to read and spell these words by the end of their first year in school.)

a	like	all	look
am	me	and	mum
are	my	at	no
away	of	big	on
can	play	cat	said
come	see	dad	she
day	the	dog	they
for	this	get	to
go	up	going	was
he	we	I	went
in	yes	is	you