

**Reading is a vital life skill and children do not make progress unless they practice at both home and school.**

## **Top 10 tips on how to support your child with their reading**

1. Choose a quiet, undistracted time and snuggle up to read! If reading becomes part of your routine (e.g always before a bath) children will learn to expect and accept this.
2. Read at least three times a week but the more often the better!
3. If it's a new book, always start by having a look at the book's cover, title, pictures and characters.
4. When your child tries to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of phonetic letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'. So for 'cat' you'd say c-a-t; not CAT. You can sound out the word with them if they still can't get it after trying on their own.
5. For under-7s, 5 - 10 minutes is usually long enough. Little and often is best. Set an amount of time, or number of pages you are going to expect your child to read.
6. Don't pressurise if they are reluctant. If your child loses interest, then do something else and come back to it at a better time to fulfil the amount you have set.
7. Use the *pause, prompt, praise* technique. If they make a mistake, *pause* for a few seconds to see if they self-correct, then *prompt* by asking: "Does that makes sense?" Or give the sound they're struggling with, or help them sound it out. Then *praise* them for trying hard.
8. Be positive and keep up the flow by not correcting every word. If what they're reading makes sense allow them to carry on (e.g saying 'his dad' when the book says 'his father')
9. Remember, there's more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters and ask them what was their favourite part. You'll then be able to see how well they've understood and help them develop better comprehension skills.
10. Read to your child. This will allow them to access a range of reading material beyond their abilities. They will also be able to enjoy stories without the pressure of having to read themselves. Sharing stories exposes children to vocabulary and events that may not necessarily occur in daily life so creates brilliant opportunities for discussion around this.

## **Glossary**

**Phoneme** - The smallest unit of sound (e.g. /c/ in cat or /ai/ in bait) There are approximately 44 phonemes in English that Phonemes can be put together to make words.

**Grapheme** - A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g. ough.

**Digraph** - A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound e.g. /oa/ in boat.

**Trigraph** - A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound e.g. the /air/ sound in bear.

**Split Digrah** - A digraph that is split between a consonant (a-e in make). A split digraph usually changes the sound of the first vowel. For example, compare the pronunciation between man and made

**Oral Blending** - This involves hearing phonemes and being able to merge them together to make a word. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to blend written words.

**Blending**- This involves looking at a written word, looking at and saying each phoneme and merging these phonemes together to make a word. This is the basis of reading.

**Oral Segmenting** - This is the act of hearing a whole word and then splitting it up into the phonemes that make it. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to segment words to spell them.

**Segmenting** - This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes that make it, using knowledge of GPCs to work out which graphemes represent those phonemes and then writing those graphemes down in the right order. This is the basis of spelling.

**Tricky words** (alos called sight words) - Words which are not phonetically regular so need to be learnt by sight (e.g. the, was and where).

## **READING TO YOUR CHILD WILL CHANGE THEIR LIFE**

**You will help to develop your child's literacy & communication skills, as well as to stimulate their brain development.**



### **Did you know...**

**77%**

**of people with average or higher literacy skills earn a high income. They are more likely to be employed in professional positions.**



**Reading for pleasure is a better indicator of a child's performance at school than their socio-economic background.**

### How to use the 'Reading Record' Book:

After hearing your child read, please write in their Reading Record. Include the date, which page they need to read next and how they read. E.g T read brilliantly, recognising most words by sight! I helped him with the tricky word they. Pg 9 next.

### Ways to help at home:

#### For children who are just beginning to read:

Choose a calm, quiet time to share a book together.

Allow time to talk to your child about the book before you start ~ Discuss the cover, title and pictures before reading the book.

Read books aloud and gradually encourage your child to join in with you.

Sometimes read the book or a page of the book to your child first, to model fluency and expression

After reading ask your child about the book ~ Did they enjoy it? What was their favourite part?

After reading a book, re-read it, pointing out words together.

Sound out simple words not complex ones.

Try pausing before the end of a sentence or before an obvious word. Encourage your child to make a sensible guess at the word. This might not be correct but if the word they offer makes sense, give your child lots of praise.

Use the context of the story to predict what might happen next.

Re-read their favourite books or books they find difficult. Repetition is an important way of helping your child to remember written words.

#### For children who are beginning to read with fluency:

Continue to read aloud with your child ~ or take turns to read to each other.

Model using voices for different characters and changing your voice to show the meaning of what is being read.

Do not expect every book to be harder than the one before. In school your child may have chosen a favourite that they have read previously, this is perfectly natural, reading should be enjoyable and not a chore!

Let your child read alone on some occasions. You can ask about the book later.

Encourage your child to concentrate whilst reading. Turn the television off!

Encourage your child to read a range of materials ~ newspapers, comics, shopping lists, dictionaries etc as well as story books.

Ask your child about the books they read. Who are their favourite authors or illustrators? Some children prefer non-fiction.

#### For children who are becoming competent readers:

As children get older, there's no need to stop enjoying sharing books and reading together. In fact it's important you don't stop.

Research has shown that children who enjoy reading and spend more time reading for pleasure have better reading and writing skills, a broader vocabulary, and even an increased general knowledge and understanding of other cultures. We appreciate how difficult it is to find time to share a book with your children because there are so many other activities competing for their time especially as they get older.

#### Remember to give your child lots of other opportunities to read:

Point out signs when you are out and about.

Read recipe books together.

Visit the library.

Read the television listings together.

Leave notes around the house for your child or in their lunch box.

Read instructions for games together.

Read the names of food items in the cupboard.

Read the back of cereal packets.

Leave messages on the fridge. Use magnetic letters.

Read shopping lists together

Remember it is also important to let your child see you read for pleasure too 😊

## EARLY CHILDHOOD READING STATISTICS

Reading aloud to your child is extremely beneficial to your kiddo for a variety of reasons. Learn some statistics about children and reading and start a reading routine today!

- The more children are read to or read by themselves for fun at home on their own time, the higher their reading scores are in general.** 
- Children's books contain 50% more words that they are unlikely to encounter through conversation, TV, and radio.** 
- Being introduced to books and being read to before beginning school is the single most important factor that influences a child's early educational success.** 
- Children who have more access to books and other print materials show more enjoyment in reading, books, and academics.** 
- Children who receive the one-on-one special attention from being read to by a parent form positive associations with books and reading.** 

At Yellow Brick Road, we know how important reading is to a child's development. Read to your child regularly and be sure to enroll them at our early childhood development center!