



Reading with your Child at Home

A Guide for Parents



Things to think about when you read with your child:

Be positive - Praise your child for trying hard at their reading. Let them know it's alright to make mistakes, just that they should try their best.

Give them time - Let them have a go at sounding, or best guessing, a word before you tell them. Use the following strategies to support them:
Phonics - use their sounds to sound out the word;
Contextual - reading the rest of the sentence in order to find a word that gives the sentence sense;
Pictorial - Clue can sometimes be found in the pictures.

Point with a finger - Encourage them to follow the words with their finger.

Ask lots of questions - Check they understand the story by asking them questions about what happens, what would they do if...? What do you think might happen next? (See later for more question ideas)

Don't read for too long - A good 10-20 minutes of reading regularly, is better than a difficult half an hour.

Make the story come to life - Encourage your child to read with expression.

Use a dictionary or discuss - When your child is unsure about the meaning of a word, discuss it with them Encourage them to think about the context to try and work it out or use a dictionary to find out.

It's ok to change - As adults, we stop reading a book if we aren't enjoying it. As children develop as readers, it is good to give them the option to do this, whilst also encouraging them to stick with challenging and alternative texts.

At school we have selected areas that we use to help focus our questioning on with the children. They are called assessment focuses - AF for short.

You may like to think of these when you are reading with your child and use the relevant question ideas to support them when you are discussing texts. You could also refer to these

discussions when you are recording them in the reading diary.

Please note that there are a whole range of questions, pitched at many different levels, listed below and they are not meant to be used every time you read with your child. We would recommend that you focus on one area when you read with your child. Please remember that these questions are only examples and ideas, do feel free to generate your own 😊

AF	Teacher speak:	What this means to you:	Example questions you could ask:
1	Use a range of strategies including accurate decoding of text, to read for meaning	Use different methods to work out what the text says (sounding out, use the pictures etc.)	<p>What is the first sound? Can you use your sounds to sound it out? Can you blend your sounds together? Does that word make sense? We've seen that word before, can you remember what is said? Do you know what that word means?</p>
2	Understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text	Find and use details of information (who, what, where, when, why? etc.)	<p>Where/when does the story take place? What did he/she look like? Who are the key characters in this book? What happened in the story? Where did you find the information about...? What's happening at this point of the story?</p>
3	Deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts	Understand what the text 'suggests' but does not directly say	<p>Which words give you the impression that? How do you feel about...? Why? If you were going to interview this character/author - which questions would you ask? What sort of person do you think would read this book? Predict what you think will happen next - why do you think that? Can you support what you're saying using the text? What does this tell you about what X is thinking? How do you feel about this topic?</p>
4	Identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level	Understand why a text is organised in a particular way	<p>How did you think it would end/should have ended? How are the beginning and the end of the story similar? What would happen if the order of the events was changed? What kind of book is this? How do you know? What will it be like? What was the main event in the story? What are the lines in the photograph for? Why have these words been made to stand out?</p>

			What is the purpose of putting the information into boxes?
5	Explain and comment on writers' uses of language, including grammatical and literary features at word and sentence level	Explain why a writer chooses particular words to create an effect on you, the reader	<p>I wonder what the writer intended by using these words? What do these words mean and why do you think the writer chose them?</p> <p>How has the author used adjectives to make this character funny?</p> <p>Look at the verbs/adjectives/adverbs, what do these words tell us about.....?</p> <p>What does the word scrambled tell you about the way Legs got dressed?</p> <p>Why do you think the author wrote the sentence in this way?</p> <p>Do you want to read the rest of the text? How is the writer encouraging you to read on?</p> <p>Which words/phases do this?</p>
6	Identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints and the overall effect of the text on the reader	Explain what effect the writer has achieved with the text	<p>What was in the author's minds as they were writing?</p> <p>Why the author did choose this setting?</p> <p>What effect does it have on you as a reader?</p> <p>What is.....opinion about?</p> <p>What makes this a successful story?</p> <p>Which illustrations were the most useful for you?</p> <p>What are the main contrast the poet makes in the third and first parts of the poem?</p>
7	Relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions	Understand what texts show about when and where they were written	<p>Do you know another story/text that deals with the same issues/has the same theme?</p> <p>What does this remind you of?</p> <p>Do you know any other stories alike this?</p> <p>How would you feel if you were in this situation? What would you have done instead?</p>

			Many traditional stories have messages - what do you think this story is trying to tell us? Can you compare character X to anyone that you know?
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Thank you for taking time to read our leaflet about reading at home.

We hope you are keen to support us with improving your child's reading and encouraging them to develop a love of reading and language. If you are, we would recommend that you read at home with them a minimum of 4 times a week, recording this in their reading diary as much as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Elm Park Staff 😊