

Reading Guide



Reading with your child at home is a crucially important way to support their learning. Reading books together, reading to your child, hearing them read, discussing reading technique, stories, poems and non-fiction texts are all key ways to will help your child to develop into an able and accomplished reader and writer.

Confident readers may have reached the stage where they no longer wish to read to an adult and want to read silently to themselves. The interaction between the parent/carers and child changes at this stage. To ensure that the child's reading development continues to move forward, we would encourage parents/carers to question the child about what they are reading, at an appropriate time, to extend their reading and share their enjoyment of the book.

General Questions

- What is the title of the book?
- What kind of book is it? (Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, short story etc)
- Who is the author/illustrator?
- Have you read any other books by the same author?
- What made you choose this book? (Author, cover, illustration, recommendation etc)
- Did you read the blurb before selecting the book?
- Could you tell anything about the book before you started reading it? What were the clues?
- Have you read this book before? Why have you chosen it again?

Questions to ask before beginning, resuming or during reading

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What do you think about...?
- What do you think that word means?
- What are the clues that make you think this?
- How would you like the story to end?
- Are you involved in the story? Why?
- Where is the story set? Is there a description?
- When is the story set? (Past, present, future)
- Who are the characters in the story?
- Who do you like/dislike? and Why?
- Do you feel similar to any of the characters? Tell me what is similar?

Questions to ask when finished reading

- Was the book as you expected?
- Was there anything you disliked about the story?
- At what point did you decide you liked/disliked the story?
- Did you notice anything special about the way language is used in this book? (dialect, descriptive writing etc)
- If you had written this book, how would you have made it better?
- Has anything that happens in this book ever happened to you?
- Can you describe an exciting moment or favourite part of the story?
- Is the story straightforward? Is there more than one story happening at the same time?
- Who was telling the story?
- Was this the most important character in the story?
- Do we get to know the characters quickly or do they build up slowly through the book?
- Was the ending as you expected?
- Would you recommend this book to your friends? Tell me what you would say to a friend?