

## **Ways to help your child**

- Say how much you enjoy reading together – talk about story time as a special time in the day
- Find a quiet, well lit place to share a book, turn off any electronics
- Read regularly for about ten minutes. Little and often is better than occasional short sessions
- Try to be supportive and positive during reading time
- Read a page or two together until your child is ready to read alone

### **Questions to Engage Children**

- Ask why they have chosen the book
- Talk about the cover and the title, what might the story be about?
- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the main characters?
- What part of the story did you like best?
- Can you find a word beginning with the 'd' sound?
- How many of the word 'the' can you find?



# **Reading Matters**

The First Steps towards Reading  
and how to support your child

Early Years

### How will your child learn to read in school?

Your child will have a variety of reading opportunities in school:

- They will learn letter sounds in discrete phonics sessions
- They will learn through carefully planned play activities that encourage the use of phonics knowledge in freely chosen activities
- They will listen to the teacher and teaching assistant read books aloud
- They will be heard to read individually from their reading scheme book
- They will read with the teacher and the teaching assistant in guided reading session
- They may be heard to read with a reading volunteer

As a parent, you can play a vital role in helping your child learn to read. Research has shown that children who are helped at home make better progress in school. Children who hear stories read regularly develop a positive attitude towards reading and have a love for it. They also become familiar with sounds, patterns and rhyme. **Read aloud and share books as often as you can.** Your child will enjoy it and it will help them when they come across new words in their own reading.

### Children's Spoken Language

Children need opportunities to talk with others as they develop and practise their speaking and listening skills. Everyday activities such as preparing meals, tidying up, putting shopping away and getting ready to go out, offer chances to develop spoken language with your child.

### Listening to your Child Read

- Run your finger along the line under the words as you read them.
- Allow your child to turn over the pages.
- Ask questions throughout the story
- After the story, talk about what happened to ensure they understood the book

### If your child makes a mistake

Don't immediately interrupt, wait 5 seconds and encourage the child to have a go first. Try encouraging them to look closely at the print. Encourage your child to look at the pictures for clues to help them read the sentence. If your child is still struggling tell them the word and then carry on with the story.

When reading unknown words allow your child to:

- Break up a word and sound it out e.g. c-ar-p-e-t or m-o-p.
- Encourage them to use the first letter of the word to help them think of a word that would fit the sentence
- Use the shape of a word
- Make a guess (by using the pictures) and check the sentence makes sense by using that word
- Read the whole sentence to try and work out the unknown word

### REMEMBER

Your child will receive school scheme reading books that are at their reading level. Try to listen to your child read five times a week and read to them regularly.

Learning to read is not a race through the reading scheme, children are all different and all learn at different rates.

The school reading scheme is a tool only. You can also choose to read any books that appeal to your child. Your child may wish to repeat reading a favourite book because it is a favourite. We hope that you will enjoy reading books from the school and local libraries together.