

Where to get books?

- School library
- School book fairs
- Charity shops
- Internet (Book People, Red House etc)
- Public library
- School book swaps
- Swap with friends



Local public library

We are very lucky to have two public libraries in Watford. One is close by near Asda (North Watford Library) and the other is in town near the Leisure Centre (Central Library).

They offer regular fun activities for children, like Story Sessions and the Summer Reading Challenge. Look out for other events.

Your child can join the library and borrow books for free. Why not pop in if you haven't been before and ask about joining.

Working together

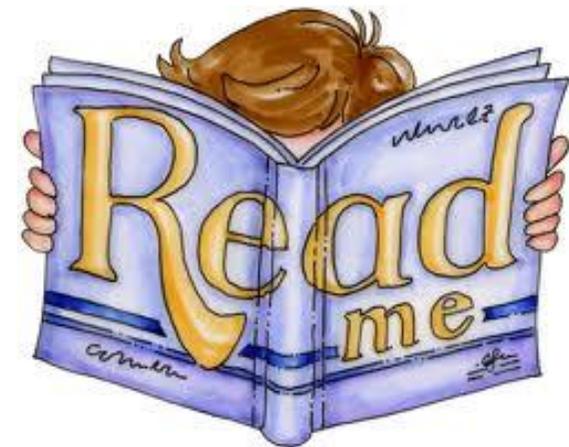
By schools and parents working together, your child will have a positive experience of reading and books and reading skills which will set them up for life.



Parkgate Infant School

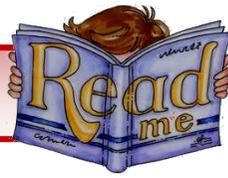


Helping your child with reading



Year 2

Why reading matters



Children who read at home with their parents perform better at school.

- Reading is the basis of all education. It is fundamental in helping children progress in all their other subjects.
- It is an essential skill they will use throughout their whole lives.
- Regular reading has been linked to increased levels of attainment.
- Reading helps speech skills and extends vocabulary.
- It helps them learn more about the world around them.
- Your child uses their imagination and creativity.
- It can help increase children's attention span.
- As they get older and read more, they understand logical concepts and relate to scenarios.
- And of course reading is fun!



Reading at school

At Parkgate Infants, children have guided reading sessions to help them to learn to read. The books used are part of the Oxford Reading Scheme (ORT).

- These are sent home with your child for them to practise reading with you. It is so important for you to give them your time and attention if they are to move on with their reading skills.
- A Reading Diary goes home for you to write comments about what and how your child read.
- Children can borrow a book each week from the school library. They will have chosen this story themselves, so it would be great if you and your child could sit down and enjoy it together.
- Teachers also read stories to the children.
- Your child's teacher acts as their reading role model whilst at school - but you can also have a huge impact at home.....

- Perhaps there are some words in a pattern (for example, ending in -ing) or a word that looks similar to one they already know (for example, fright and night).
- Are there any bits of a word they recognise?
- Some children are able to break down phonemes but then find it difficult to figure out what full word the phonemes make.
- If they still don't know, you can tell them the word and then re-read the sentence.

English not their first language?



- If English is difficult for them, you can still read together in your first language. This can still be helpful whilst your child is learning English.
- Tell them folk tales from your own country - storytelling is important for children and they will learn about their culture as well. They will learn about the structure of stories too.
- If you have other English-speaking family members, encourage them to read with your child (an older sibling at school perhaps?).
- Your child can borrow Dual Language books (books with the story written in two languages) from the school library.
- If your child has joined the public library, there are a great number of Dual Language books they can borrow and read at home with you.

What to read?



Reading isn't just about books. You can introduce your child to a wide variety of reading materials. Encourage them to read fiction, non-fiction, poetry books, comics and look at (reading and fun book) websites. And don't forget about picture books - they may seem simple on the surface but often have more, deeper ideas contained within the pictures. A good example of this would be Anthony Browne books.

- Are they confident about attempting new words?

Your child's teacher will appreciate your comments and you child will be happy that you take an interest in their reading.

Difficulties? Reluctant Reader?

Your child may not be interested in reading. So what can you do? Perhaps they are not in the mood or too tired but it might be an underlying issue. Children develop at different rates and even though they might find reading difficult or don't enjoy it, they will get there eventually. If you have tried the tips below and your child is still reluctant to read, you may want to speak to your child's teacher.



If your child seems reluctant to read, you could try the following:

- find out what they like. Take them to the public library and let them browse and choose. Ask the librarian for advice.
- if they don't enjoy picture books or fiction, try some non-fiction (factual) books instead.
- boys in particular seem to enjoy non-fiction more. Dinosaurs, aliens and pirates generally go down well!
- Don't force them to read if tired or uninterested; you can come back to it in a little while.
- You could start the story by reading a few pages, then they could carry on from there.
- You could take it in turns to read a page or two each.
- Ask them to look at pictures for clues.
- Are there any words they might already know?
- Get them to read the sentence, leaving out the tricky word. Then ask them, having read the sentence and get an idea of the context, what they think the tricky word might be.
- Ask them to sound out the word, breaking it into phonemes (basically sounds within a word). For example, 'th' and 'ey' are split but when joined together make the long sound 'they'.
- Which letters do they recognise?
- Have they come across that word before?
- Ask them to look at the first letter of the word and see if they can work it out from there, perhaps again in context.



chair

Reading at home – what you can do



..... You are your child's main reading role model! What you do at home really does make a difference. Let your child see you reading and they will learn that reading important.

Many parents lead busy lives, juggling jobs, family and other commitments. Sometimes you may feel too tired to read with your child. However, just 15 minutes (as a minimum) out of your day to sit down cosily with your child will be rewarding for you both. As well as listening to them read, you can read them a bedtime story - it's a great way to end the day before they go off to sleep.

To help you get the best out of helping your child to read, some tips have been provided below.



Top Tips!

BEFORE

- Make reading enjoyable! Even if reading isn't your thing, still show enthusiasm for your child.
- Choose a place that is comfortable and a time that suits you both. Just before bedtime is generally a good time when you can both relax and enjoy a story together.
- Switch off the TV! Try to limit the amount of time your child spends watching TV and playing on games consoles.
- Read little and often. This is better than cramming a week's reading into a half hour session.
- Read regularly, for at least 15 minutes every day (more if possible, spread out throughout the day). This time spent reading with your child **will** make a difference.
- Once your child has chosen a book, look at the cover together and ask your child what they think it might be about.
- If they have chosen the book, ask them what made them choose it. Was it the cover? The title? What was it?

DURING



- Encourage your child to use expression, make gestures or put on a silly face! This makes the story more interesting and brings it to life.
- Remind them to 'read' the pictures too. Pictures in a book offer clues to what's in the text.
- Maintain the flow. Be prepared to answer a few questions as you read! Don't interrupt when they are reading but keep in mind where they slightly mispronounced a word or got a bit of the story wrong and come back to it at the end. Unless it is a word that appears very regularly.
- Is there a point in the story where you can ask them what they think will happen next, before they/you turn over the page?
- Show you are enjoying the book with them if they are reading aloud to you - laugh, look scared, shiver. Whatever it takes.
- Let your child turn the pages - it gives them a feel for books and independence in handling them.
- Discuss the meaning of difficult words.
- Don't be afraid to abandon a book if your child isn't interested. You could always re-visit it another time.
- Praise them, even if they make mistakes. This will keep them motivated and improve their confidence.
- Always be positive.



AFTER

Taking time to listen to them read and then chat about the book afterwards **will** make a difference. It shows that you value books and reading and in particular, their attempts at reading.

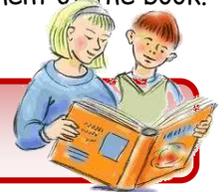
- Chat about the book you have just read - about any pictures, what your child liked best about the story, who was their favourite character, how did so-and-so feel, etc.

- Ask them to tell you the story in their own words, either by looking at the pictures or from memory. This is also a way for you to check if they have understood the story.
- Play I-Spy. For example: I-Spy an animal behind the tree -what is it? I-Spy a word beginning with the letter 'b', I-Spy a word that rhymes with night, etc.
- You could watch a programme or film about the book you've just read (see 'Other Ideas' further on).
- If they enjoyed the story, find another one
 - by the same author/illustrator
 - in the same series
 - on a similar topic
 - as a TV or film tie-in
 - or find related activities from the internet to keep their interest going.



As your child progresses, make sure their reading development continues to move forward. Question your child about what they are reading - this will show how much they understand what they have read, it reinforces what they have read and at the same time shares enjoyment of the book.

Reading Diary



Write in your child's school Reading Diary. Comment on how they read. This diary will provide a record of your child's reading progress.

- Does your child run their finger along the text as they read?
- Do they rely mainly on the pictures to tell the story, are they reading the text or is it a mixture of both?
- Where they have resumed a story they have previously read, can they remember what happened last?
- Can they predict what might happen next?
- Can they recognise key words?
- Are they aware of punctuation?
- Can they read with expression?

