

Parent advice booklet
SEND
Supporting reading
skills



What can I do at home?

Children with SEND needs lots of repetition and over-learning of reading skills, both at school and at home.

The best way you can support your child's reading is by encouraging a love of reading, and spending time looking through books, talking about the pictures and story, and reading together each day. Reading is about much more than getting your child to read to you, it is just as beneficial for you to read to them, particularly early on.

You should continue to read with your child, even as they get older, to support their understanding of new words, and to ask them questions about what they have read.

You could try the following:

- ❖ Read in short bursts, eg. 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes later in the day.
- ❖ Take turns in reading or even read at the same time as each other. You could read one page, and your child read the next.
- ❖ Make reading a relaxing experience. Make the environment cosy and friendly – bean bags, soft

cushions, stuffed toys and blankets all help to create a soothing environment.

- ❖ Model reading the words to your child – you read the sentence first, then your child reads it back to you.
- ❖ Read the same book multiple times. This is really important for children who struggle with reading.
- ❖ Take your child to a local book shop or the library. Choose a book together.
- ❖ Encourage your child to read with or to other children – this could be with siblings, friends, family or imaginary friends e.g. teddy bears.
- ❖ Pick out words your child struggles with and put these words onto flashcards – you can then play games with learning these single words in isolation.
- ❖ Alternatively use a flashcard approach to learn the first 100 high frequency words. These websites have printables of the high frequency words and give some ideas for games you could play:
 - ❖ http://www.familylearning.org.uk/reading_printables.html
 - ❖ <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2-resources.html>
 - ❖ <http://www.highfrequencywords.org>
- ❖ Reading shouldn't be confined to the 10 minutes before bed. Read signs, maps, timetables, menus,

ingredients lists, etc when you are out and about.
Take every opportunity to read!

- ❖ Lots of praise and encouragement when your child reads. The experience should always be as positive as possible.

Are there any useful resources or websites I can use?

Oxford Owl has a free eBook library you could try. Sign up on this link:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

The letters and sounds website introduces you to phonics and has lots of free resources and ideas for games to play:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

Teach your monster to read is an excellent award winning and highly motivating website. You need to create an account.

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>

Family learning website has some good ideas for games you can play at home with sight words.

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/sight_word_games.html

Oxford Owl website has loads of advice and tips on reading with your child:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading/starting-to-read-ages-4-5/>

The Book Trust also has more information on supporting reluctant readers, online books and games:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/>

The literacy shed has a useful link which gives you ideas for questions you can ask your child while reading to help develop their understanding and comprehension:

https://www.literacyshedblog.com/uploads/1/2/5/7/12572836/ks1_reading_vipers.pdf

The Literacy Shed is an excellent bank of short video clips and photos to inspire creativity and story telling:

<https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html>

The CBeebies website has lots of literacy games, videos and fun activities:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics/literacy>

Who can I ask for more help or advice on supporting reading?

Your child's class teacher and the school SENCO can help you with advice on supporting your child's reading at home.

We hope you enjoy this resource and find many of the practical tips useful.