

Tips for parents to help your child read class and library books at home

KS1

Before your child starts to read:

- Look at the front cover of the story together and tell your child the title. Ask them what they think the story might be about and what might happen.
- Look at the pictures on each page and talk about what might be happening in the story.

As they read you the story, encourage them to:

- Use the letter sounds they know to work out any words they do not know, for example, s-p-l-a-sh makes splash. But if they can't work it out after a few seconds, just tell them the word so they can keep reading.
- Use the pictures to help them think about what is happening in that part of the story.
- Think about what word would sound right in the sentence.
- Make their reading voice sound like their talking voice, for example, when someone is speaking.

When they have finished reading the story, you can ask them questions like:

- What was your favourite bit?
- What happened at the end?
- Who was your favourite character and why?
- How did he feel when he got lost?

As your child reads, give them LOTS of praise and make it as fun as you can!

KS2 (for children reading longer chapter books)

Before your child starts to read:

- Read the blurb on the back of the book and talk about if the book is a fiction (story) book or a non-fiction (information) book.
- Point out if there are a contents or index page. Talk about what this shows us.
- Ask them what has been happening in the story, and what they think might happen next.

As they read you the story, encourage them to:

- Think about what word would sound right in the sentence if they get stuck.
- Use their letter sounds and words they do know to help them read new words, for example, thought sounds and looks a bit like brought.
- Make their reading voice sound like their talking voice, for example, when someone is speaking.

When they have finished reading, you can ask them questions like:

- What was your favourite bit of that chapter?
- How did that character feel when they got lost?
- Who was your favourite character and why?
- What might happen to them next?

Encourage your child to read all sorts of reading materials at home and when you are out and about, like newspapers, comics, library books, takeaway leaflets, shop signs and food labels.