

Top tips to support your child's reading at home

1. Read as regularly as you can at home

- Reading at home is just as important as reading at school. It gives children a chance for extra practice (which is always a good thing!) and the opportunity to develop a language-rich environment at home.
- Read to your child. This may sound obvious but showcasing your love of reading and giving your child the opportunity to listen to *you* read is just as valuable as them reading to you. Some parents may think that reading at home is all about hearing your child read, which *is* a **very** important part of developing their reading skills, however allowing them into your world of reading creates a new, exciting experience that will boost their love of books.

Did you know?

Children who read outside of school every day are five times as likely to read above the expected level compared with those who don't.

Let's get reading!

2. Build reading into your child's daily routine

- Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can start to expect it as part of their regular routine. It can be any time: before bed, after dinner, or in the morning after breakfast when they have more energy.
- Don't get caught up with *how much* time your child spends reading – if they need a break that is completely fine! Reading can require a lot of mental effort and stamina, especially during the early stages and we don't want to 'put children off' by forcing them to continue reading when they need a rest.
- Your child doesn't need to read an entire book in one go. Taking regular breaks will give your child a chance to gradually build their reading stamina and soon they will be able to read for longer.

3. Encourage reading a variety of materials

- Don't feel like your child only has to read books. They can read anything and everything – get creative! Magazines, newspapers, recipes, game instructions – the list is endless!
- When you are out and about there are so many things that we read automatically and successfully using our reading skills without even realising! Encourage your child to read things like road names and signs, shop names, bus and train timetables, posters and leaflets. This will support your child's application of the sounds that they know to real life.



4. Develop your child's love of reading

- Give books as presents
- Encourage your child to organise book swaps with friends
- Visit the local library or book shop together regularly
- Have a family bookshelf and start a family book club
- Alternate between print books and eBooks
- Watch the film version once your child has read the print version
- Mix it up: read non-fiction books as well as fiction books



5. Dos and Don'ts when your child is learning to read...

Do

- Give them a chance to sound out the word in their head.
- Encourage your child to sound the word out aloud.
- Ask them to read the word again if they read it wrong.
- Ask your child questions about what is happening in the story: predict, describe characters, explain the plot and order the events.
- Be patient – reading is a tricky skill; your child will get there in the end.
- Give lots of support, praise and encouragement to boost their confidence.

Don't

- Immediately correct them if they read a word incorrectly.
- Read the words for them.
- Ask your child to guess what the word might be.
- Ask your child to look at the pictures for clues to guess what the word might be.
- Ask your child to re-read the sentence and think what the word could be.