

## **St. Leonard's Church of England Primary School**

### **Supporting Your Childs Reading at Home**

*“Parents and carers play a vital role. Their attitude is often the strongest influence on a child.”* As a parent you are probably helping your child with reading much more than you may realise. If your home contains books, magazines and catalogues and your child sees you reading, if you read to your child and talk together about familiar stories and if you also use printed material to find things out, then your child already has a head start in this area.

**Year One**



**Year Two**

#### **How to Help with Reading Homework?**

- Remember that talking about reading is very important, so if your child is sometimes reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book will also help to develop reading skills.
- Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning rather than absolute accuracy.
- Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable, in a quiet corner with the television turned off.
- When your child brings home a book that has been read before ask for a summary before reading it again, then discuss the book at a deeper level than last time.
- As your child progresses, talk about authors, characters and plots and what new information has been learnt.
- If your child reads silently ask them to re-tell the part that has been read, and why not sit beside them and read your own book at the same time!
- If your child is really struggling, take over the reading yourself and let the teacher know.

***Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make reading a positive experience.***

- Choose a quiet time, with no distractions, ten minutes is usually long enough.
- Make reading enjoyable, try not to pressure if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else.
- Maintain the flow. If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.
- Be positive. If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'no, that's wrong,' but 'let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.



- Success is the key. Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence it is better to keep to easier books.
- Regular practice. Try to read with your child on most days, little and often is best.
- Talk about books. There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book, the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part, why they think something happened etc. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

## Reading Together.

You and your child both read the words out loud together. You must not go too fast. Make your speed as fast or slow as your child's. You will find that your child will say words they don't really know a split second behind you and that's okay. Encourage your child to point to the words.

## Going Solo

When you are reading together and your child feels confident, they may want to read a little on their own. You should agree on a way for them to ask you to be quiet, a knock or a squeeze. When they make this sign you should go quiet straight away. If they try a word and get it wrong you should read the right word out aloud for them and make sure they say it right as well.



## More Helpful Hints

- Try to establish the authors your child likes as this will help you choose suitable books.
- Don't scorn comics; they have their place as many have colourful characters and a well-sequenced plot.
- Encourage your child to test read a page of any book before choosing it. Let your child put a finger on each word he/she cannot read. If more than five fingers are used on any one page, the text is probably too hard. But you can choose harder books for you to read to them.

- Leave notes for your child to read e.g. 'on your pillow', 'in your lunch box' etc.
- Point out the authors name before reading a book.
- Look at the TV guide together and choose a programme to watch.
- Play number plate games in the car, e.g. FCF could be 'Fat Cows Flying'.
- Ask your child's teacher for advice and ideas about how you can help.



### ***What else can we do to help?***

- Recognise and be proud of your child's successes in reading.
- Ensure your child is exposed to a wide range of reading materials, i.e. letters, recipes, puzzle books, magazines etc.
- Encourage your child to read for different purposes, reading biographies and novels, reading and explaining instructions for using new appliances or computer games, reading interesting articles from the local newspaper, reading to younger brother or sister, reading to find out more information about a particular topic.
- Take an interest in books written by favourite authors, talk about them and give them for presents.
- Encourage your child to talk about books he or she has enjoyed or disliked, foster thoughtful criticism and comment.
- Support your child's school topics by looking in the library together for suitable topic related books and then sharing information learnt. You could also help your child to write short notes about the information learnt.
- Discuss ideas, statements and underlying beliefs which are evident in newspapers, books and television programmes.
- Encourage your child to keep a reading log of books read at home, containing comments or pictures about the book.

Remember that your child will still enjoy you reading to them at times.

Read books that have been made into films or videos and talk about the differences between the book and video.

Encourage your child to enter competitions in the local newspaper.



**Most of all**

**'Enjoy reading together and talking about Books'.**