

Reading together is the best way to improve your child's reading!

Easy Ideas for Improving Reading

- Spend 10 minutes a day reading together. Make it fun –choose books, magazines, brochures, catalogues, menus, recipes, posters, newspapers that you both enjoy
- Encourage the children to make up their own characters and stories
- Buy books as presents
- Make a special place to keep reading books
- Join the library - they have lots of fun and free events and have free internet access. Don't forget our school library is open Mon-Thur 3-4pm!
- When reading point out unusual words and talk about what they mean
- Let your child see you reading for pleasure - talk about what you like and don't like to read.

Ideas for Beginner Readers

- Encourage your child to spot letters and words that they recognise on posters, signs etc.
- Point out various signs that are all around us. Children from a very early age recognise (and read) McDonalds, Tesco, Asda etc.
- Read words together on food packets and tins when shopping
- Read a book to the children that they know well, miss out words and encourage the children to fill in the blanks
- Spend time reading together just for fun. Talk about the pictures or make up stories. Bed time is the perfect time for doing this
- Create your own book - include photographs of the family, trips out, children's drawings etc.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs

Ideas for Confident Readers

- Read books about topics that you know your child will like such as dinosaurs, sport, art etc
- Take books, magazines or comics when going shopping or on a journey
- Read match reports or articles about their favourite team or sport
- Research using the internet together. You could look at team websites, or their favourite author or TV programme and find out more about them
- Talk to children about books that you enjoy reading now and books you enjoyed as a child
- Encourage the children to choose their own books, magazines, comics, newspapers, non-fiction books. Offer a new book as a treat or reward
- Share audio versions of books that may be too difficult to read alone, such as the Harry Potter Series
- Confident readers often enjoy reading to younger members of the family

Comprehension

It is often the case that children become very good at reading the words of their book but haven't fully understood what they are reading. One way to help with comprehension skills is to ask **a few** questions whilst reading together or at the end of a book. There are some ideas below:

Fiction Books

Where/when does the story take place?

What did the character/s look like?

How did you feel during different parts of the story? What made you feel like this?

What parts of the story did you like/dislike the most? Why?

Have you read any other stories which were similar?

Do you know any other authors who deal with the same issues as this?

What do you think the words... mean?

Do you think this book was as good as...?

What part of the book was the saddest/funniest/most interesting?

Did the pictures help you to understand more about the story?

What questions would you like to ask the author?

Do you think all children would like this book?

Non-fiction Books

What have you learnt from this book?

Who do you think would find this book the most interesting/useful?

Quick quiz (using index/contents pages) – on which page would you find out about...

Do you think this book could be better? Why?

Did you find the diagrams/photographs helpful? How?

Poetry

Who wrote this poem?

What is the poem about?

What do you think the poet is trying to say?

What did you like /dislike about the poem?

What poetic features can you identify (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration)?

Did the poem remind you of anything?

Why do you think the poet chose the word...

Remember – it is important that you and your children enjoy reading together! Happy Reading!