



Supporting Reading at Home

Sharing a book with children at home should be a wonderful experience for both parent and child. It is a time for talking, reading and laughing together. Reading at home can give children a flying start in life and help them to become lifelong readers.

Our pupils bring books home every day. We encourage parents and pupils to read at home daily, this could be the book that pupils have brought school but there is nothing wrong with parents sharing a book from home or the library.

Reading, being read to, and sharing books in the home helps to build a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world. Research shows children who start school with good vocabulary and communication skills make friends more easily, have fewer behavioural issues and are more likely to do well academically. A strong, early foundation in language has even been linked to better mental health as children get older.

Reading with your child, or encouraging your child to read independently for just ten minutes each day can make all the difference.

It's never too early to start sharing books with children – they might not understand the words, but they will love cuddling up, hearing your voice, and looking at the pictures!

Why read to your child?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UmwXQwx5gk&feature=youtu.be>

10 things to think about when you read to your child:

[10 things to think about when you read to your child - YouTube](#)

Join Carlisle Library!

Our library, which can be found in the Lane in Carlisle is always accepting new members.

How to join and gain full library membership:

1. Visit Carlisle library in the Lanes with proof of address AND a form of ID - if you study in Cumbria please use your term-time address
2. Let a member of staff know you'd like to join the library
3. The staff member will take your personal details
4. Once submitted you will be given your membership card - please keep this safe!

Opening times

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday: 9am to 5.30pm

Tuesday: 10am to 5.30pm

Saturday: 9am to 1pm

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)

Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: eef.li/literacy-early-years

Education Endowment Foundation (2019).

Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: eef.li/literacy-ks3-ks4

Breadmore, H.L., Vardy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Kwok, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2019).

Literacy Development: Evidence Review. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf