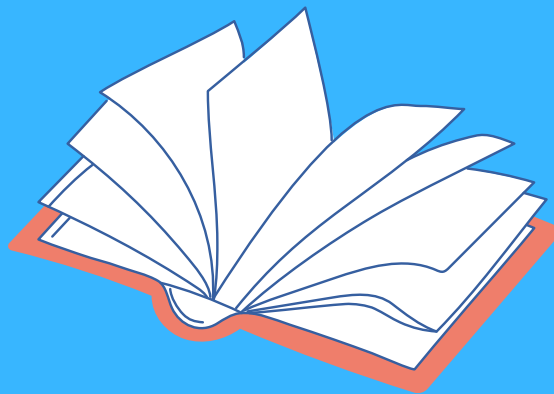


# *Sound and District Primary School*



## *Reading guide for parents and carers*



*This guide contains advice about supporting reading at home, including questions to ask when reading with your child. As always, please get in touch if you would like further information.*

# *10 tips to help children enjoy reading!*

1. Make books part of your family life- always have books and magazines around so that you and your child are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
2. Make most of the library - it's free! It's a lovely way of spending an hour or so together, especially on a cold or wet day.
3. Match your child's interests - help them to find the right book- it could be fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
4. Whilst considering the above, don't forget that all reading is beneficial - encourage children to try different types of text from time to time (non-fiction, comics, picture books, magazines and leaflets).
5. Get comfortable- snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child - either in bed, on a beanbag, on the sofa or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.
6. Ask questions- to keep them interested in the story such as, 'what do you think will happen next?' or 'can you remember what has happened already'?
7. You can read when you are out and about! For example, during waiting times at the doctor or dentist and reading signs at the supermarket!
8. Read again and again, encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.
9. Bedtime stories- regularly read with your child at bedtime. It is a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.
10. Rhyme and repetition- books and poems, which include rhyme and repetition, are great for encouraging children to join in and remember the words.

# A range of reading questions you could ask

## Helping your child to read a word

Which letter sounds (phonemes) do you recognise? Can you blend them together? *The reading diary contains pages of the sounds taught so this is a great resource to refer to during reading times!*

Does the word make sense? Read the sentence again to check.

Is there another word that would make sense? Is it a word you know?

Have you read the word before? Is it on another page? Are there any parts of the word you recognise?

Miss out the word, say 'mmm' and then finish the sentence. Then go back and work out what the word was.

In a rhyming book, think of a word that rhymes.

Always go back and read the sentence again to work on fluency.

## Questions you could ask before your child starts reading the book

What is the title of the book?

What kind of book is it? (Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, short story etc)

Who is the author/illustrator?

Have you read any other books by the same author?

What made you choose this book? (Author, cover, illustration, recommendations, etc)

Could you tell anything about the book before you started reading it? What were the clues?

Have you read this book before? Why have you chosen it again?

## *Questions to ask your child whilst they are reading their book*

What has happened so far?

What do you think will happen next?

What do you think about...?

What do you think that word means?

How would you like the story to end?

Where is the story set? Is there a description?

Who are the characters in the story?

Who do you like/dislike? Why?

## *Questions to ask when your child has finished their book*

Was there anything you liked or disliked about the story?

If you have read this book before, did you enjoy it more this time? Why?

Has anything that happens in this book ever happened to you?

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Can you describe an exciting moment or favourite part of the story?

# *Inference - reading between the lines*

Inferring is working out the author wants you to think. An inference is “reading between the lines” to understand things not directly stated by the author. Inferences are based on information stated in the text as well as what is known from personal experience which relates to the passage being read. Encourage your child to make inferences based on clues in the text. Their understanding of the context of the book will help them to develop this important skill.

Can your child become a story detective?

How parents/carers can help with developing inference skills

Ask “what do you think?” when you are reading or talking. Explain that we make inferences all day long, not just when reading. Encourage a conversation with your child about this.

Model your own behind-the-scenes thinking: this technique is called a ‘think-aloud’. For example, “How do you know the dog is sad?” When your child replies, ask “what clues helped you figure that out? Show me the words”.

Similarly, when they have used context to puzzle out the meaning of an unknown word, ask “What helped you figure that out”?

Here are some examples of inference:

1. The sandwich you left on the table is gone. Crumbs lead to your dog’s bed, and a piece of meat hangs out of her mouth.

Using the evidence from this passage, you can infer she has eaten the sandwich.

2 Harry’s face turned red and he started to yell, balling his hands up into shaking fists.

From the evidence in this passage you can infer that he’s angry about something, though we don’t yet know what it is.