

Some hints and tips on reading with your child

Whenever possible, try to read each day with your child. Sharing a book for five minutes each day is far more beneficial to their progress than fifteen minutes every three days.

To be most effective, reading with your child should be an enjoyable experience, so try to make it a fun time! In addition to helping your child to read the words accurately, it is equally important that they understand what the words mean. In order to encourage this, you may find it useful to ask some of the following questions whilst reading with your child:

Can you explain what has happened so far in the story?

Why do you think [the character] did that?

What do you think will happen next?

What would you do if you were [the character]?

Encourage your child to read anything and everything (within reason, of course) while at home and out and about, for instance signs, instructions, labels, leaflets and posters. Don't forget to discuss what the purpose of the writing is and who it is aimed at. This will help to reinforce the message that reading is not just about school but is an important part of everybody's lives.

Read to your child regularly so that they hear texts which they would be unable to read for themselves. Hearing the language used in different types of writing will help to improve their reading and writing skills.

Visit the library regularly and let your child choose their own books. If they have chosen a book themselves, they will be more likely to read it.

