

FAQs

Reading at home for parents



Should I be reading the whole book every time?

It depends on how long the book is and how well your child can focus. If the reading session is going well and your child is still engaged, we would suggest you carry on. Re-reading books is also extremely valuable, so encourage your child to read books again and again- this will boost their confidence and encourage more fluency.

How long should I read with my child for?

Every child is different, but we would advise that the timing is chosen carefully as certain times e.g. evenings, aren't always the best times for your child to enjoy their own reading. Having said that, we acknowledge that parents/carers are busy people and reading sessions need to be worked around a family routine. If possible, we would advise that you hear your child read for 5-10 minutes each day, or 5 times a week (strive for 5) and then discuss a bit about the book afterwards- do some 'book talk'.

When does my child learn capital letters?

Children are exposed to capital letters from the moment that they begin reading and recognising familiar words/signs. They will quickly become familiar with the most common ones that they see e.g. T, and during reading, if they aren't sure what the letter is and the sound that it makes, explain it to your child rather than leaving them to struggle. There is a sound mat available with both capital and lower case letters so that the children can begin to make an association between the two. Children begin writing the capital letter at the beginning of their name in Reception. They learn how to form all capital letters in Year 1 as part of our handwriting scheme 'Pen Pals'.

What can I do if my child can't blend sounds to read?

Try not to worry, this is very common when children begin to read. First try doing it together, c-a-t, cat. If your child is still finding it tricky, ask them to 'sound out' the word, then segment it for them (as a quickly as you can), often this helps them to hear the blend and they are able to say the word. If not, you can segment and blend it, then do it again together afterwards. If this still isn't working, come and chat to your child's teacher. We have more strategies that you can try. Remember to praise your child for all efforts!

When does my child get a reading certificate?

Every time we hear your child read at school, we look back at your comments in the record and discuss the home reading with your child. We praise all children for reading at home and add up the home reads regularly. When a child has read 25, 50, 75, 100 (and so on...) times, they will receive a reading award in our recognition assembly.

What can I do to challenge my child more?

If you think your child is ready to move up a book band, please come and speak to your child's teacher about it or arrange a time for them to call you if you don't see the teacher in person. They will be able to explain the specific things that your child still needs to work on before moving on. It would also be advisable to ask your child questions about the book to ensure that they comprehend what they are reading. E.g. who is the main character in the story? What do you think will happen next etc? You can of course explore different books/magazines/comics etc at home. You can also put subtitles on when your child is watching television programmes and spot the 'tricky troll' words together.