



Hearing Your Child Read

A Guide for Parents

How long should my child read for?

The school recommends 3-5 times per week. Setting aside 20 minutes to introduce, read and reflect will develop both reading and comprehension skills.

Keeping a record

Reading records are used as a link between school and home to support and monitor reading. We value comments made by parents/carers and encourage the use of reading records to both celebrate successes and raise any issues related to their child's reading skills.

What can I write in the reading record book?

The date, page number and your name will show us that your child has read at home.

If you would like to add a comment, then focus on Accuracy, Fluency and Expression

Accuracy – reading each word correctly.

Fluency – being able to flow right through a sentence or phrase with ease.

Expression – learning to read out loud with expression – changing their voice to match the tone of the text.

*******Please ensure that comments always focus the positive*******

Hints on helping with reading at home

As a parent, you can play an important role in helping your child learn to read. Research shows that children who are helped at home make better progress in school.

Reading with your child can be fun and very rewarding. It also shows that you value his/her efforts. If children enjoy reading, it will benefit their whole education. They are also more likely to carry on reading as adults.

When hearing your child read it is necessary to ask them questions about texts as they are reading. Encourage them to look back at the pages of the book to find information.

Remember – Practice, with praise, makes perfect.



Useful Questions

Reading bands – pink, red, yellow, blue, green, orange

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is in the story?• Where is the story set?• Can you use the pictures to tell part of the story?• How do you think the story will end?• What will happen next?• Do you like the characters? Why?• What happens in the story?• What did the characters say? Why?• How did a character scare, upset or help another character?• Has this ever happened to you? How did you feel? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did the story make you think of something that has happened to you or someone you know?• Can you put the main events in order?• How would you feel at this point in the story?• What would you do?• How do you think a character feels?• Why did a character do/say something in the text?• How did a character in the book help/upset another in the story? Why?• What advice would you give the characters? |
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Reading bands – Purple, turquoise, gold, white

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can you explain why you think a character did that in the story?• What does this word/phrase tell you about the character or setting?• What does the word 'X' tell us about 'Y'?• Find two ways in which the writer tells you about an event/setting/character/theme?• Which words did you like the most? Why? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the story 'X' is mentioned a lot. Why?• What other words/phrases could the writer have used?• What do you think the writer meant by writing 'X'?• Which words do you think are the most important in this sentence/paragraph/page? Why? |
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Reading bands – brown, grey, claret, black

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did that character mean when they said 'X'?• Are the character's actions a surprise or what you expected?• Why is that character surprised/scared/excited/angry?• Explain the character's actions or reactions to events in the story?• What clues are there in the story to show that that character is happy/angry/sad/excited etc?• What do you think this character thinks or another character? Why?• How did the writer make you think this? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has the writer been successful in creating a setting/mood/character/theme? What else could they have done?• Describe different character's reactions to the same event?• Who is the 'voice' in the text?• Which character does the writer want you to like or dislike? How have they done this?• What do you think will happen because of a character's actions/dialogue/thoughts? |
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'X' – word / phrase