



# Helping your child to read and spell



Reading and spelling tips for Key Stage 1



# General guidance for helping children with their reading

## How to encourage your child to read:

- 📖 Read yourself - share your reading. Let your children see that you value books and keep them at home
- 📖 Keep books safe - have a special place to put your books
- 📖 Point out words around you - help your child to read the words around them (on food packets in the supermarket, on buses, in newspapers, in recipes).
- 📖 Visit your library - it's free to join! Many libraries have storytelling sessions!
- 📖 Make time to read - read a bedtime story every night with your child. Encourage them to share reading with other members of the family.
- 📖 Keep in touch with school - make sure your child swaps their reading books!

## How to help with your child with reading

- 📖 Be positive - praise, let them know its alright to make mistakes
- 📖 Time - give them time to make a guess before you tell them the word. Help them to get the first sound or try breaking the word up into smaller sections
- 📖 Point with a finger - encourage them to follow the text with their finger
- 📖 Let them read their favourites - its good practise to read the same books over and over again/
- 📖 Ask lots of questions - check they have understood the story by asking them questions about what happened. Use the pictures to explain what is happening.
- 📖 Don't read for too long - A "good" 10 minutes is better than a difficult half an hour!

## Activities

- 📖 Make puppets by cutting figures out of cards and use them as props for stories. You could also use your child's toys or teddy bears
- 📖 Take photos of your child and use these to make a book about your child
- 📖 When reading make funny voices and actions that your child can join in on
- 📖 Make reading have a purpose!!! E.g. Organise a treasure hunt around the house using lists of things the children have to find! OR encourage your child to read the instructions to receives or activities
- 📖 Make a scrapbook with your child about their favourite star, group or team. Let them cut out pictures from magazines and write their own captions
- 📖 Buy a book of crosswords and word searches and try and solve them together
- 📖 Make up your own word puzzles
- 📖 As your child progresses, talk about authors and find other books written by the author to read
- 📖 Play fastest finger game against other siblings or adults - this is a game that involves children looking for a particular word quickly. Fastest finger wins!!!
- 📖 Suggest your children re-writes lyrics for their favourite song
- 📖 Make story tapes with your children to go with their favourite books. Then they can listen to their tape and read along!!!
- 📖 Enjoy reading in different places - under the table, in a cave, outside, under a tree!



# Good readers use the following to unlock meaning when they read

1. **Use background knowledge:** good readers use their relevant prior knowledge before, during, and after reading to enhance their understanding of what they're reading.
2. **Ask questions:** good readers generate questions before, during, and after reading to clarify meaning, make predictions, and focus their attention on what's important.
3. **Create mental images:** good readers create a wide range of visual, auditory, and other sensory images as they read, and they become emotionally involved with what they read.
4. **Make inferences:** good readers use their prior knowledge and information from what they read to make predictions, seek answers to questions, draw conclusions, and create interpretations that deepen their understanding of the text.
5. **Determine the most important ideas or themes:** good readers identify key ideas or themes as they read, and they can distinguish between important and unimportant information.
6. **Process information:** good readers track their thinking as it evolves during reading, to get the overall meaning.
7. **Use fix up strategies:** good readers are aware of when they understand and when they don't. If they have trouble understanding specific words, phrases, or longer passages, they use a wide range of problem-solving strategies including skipping ahead, rereading, asking questions, using a dictionary, and reading the passage aloud.

## Remember this process!

1. Connect to the text
2. Ask questions
3. Expand vocabulary
4. Make predictions about what you have just read
5. Look for inference - "read between the lines"
6. Summarise and evaluate what they have just read



REMEMBER GOOD QUALITY TEXTS  
ARE KEY TO SUCCESS IN READING

# Spelling games!

Below are some fun ways to help with spelling:

## Foundation/ Key Stage 1

- Use picture cards : find me the picture that begins with a.../ ends with a..., find all the cards that have a.... in the word
- magnetic letters :spelling simple words
- Look, cover, write for words
- writing words in sand, bubbles, flour etc (make spelling fun!)
- wordsearches - great for 1:1 correspondence of spelling
- Scrabble
- Hangman
- Fastest finger - find me ....
- How many 3 letter words can you make from.... (for younger children you can do this activity but use magnetic letters so they can move the letters around)
- Anagrams
- Dictionary challenge - finding certain words with a time restriction!
- ALWAYS put words into the context of a sentence - connects words and meaning!