

Reading with your child at home



'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!' Dr Seuss

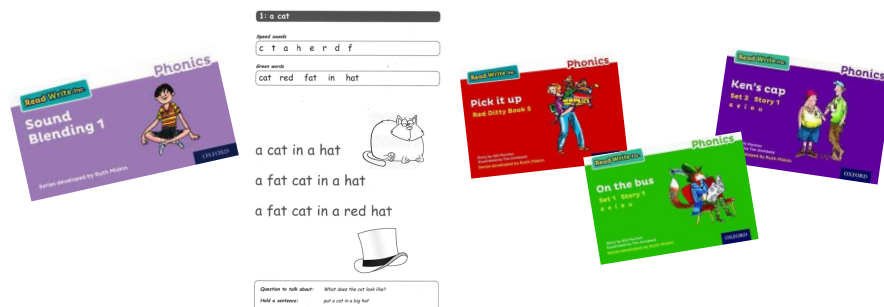
Reading is a vital lifelong skill. Good readers do well in school – and in life. By listening to your child read, you are making sure they have the opportunity to practise and become a good reader quickly. All parents have the power to change outcomes for their children.

Phonics and reading

In school your child will take part in daily Read, Write, Inc. phonics lessons where they will learn new sounds and practice reading words, then sentences. We listen to the children read during these sessions and at other times, but daily reading at home is so important as it helps your child become a more confident and fluent reader. The more they read, the faster progress they will make.

Books

When your child is ready, they will start by having sound blending books, then Ditty Sheets, before starting to read Storybooks.



Supporting your child to sound out

If your child hesitates on a word, encourage them to "Fred talk, read the word", i.e. "c-a-t, cat".

Once your child has learnt some special friends (initially sh, ch, th, qu, ng, nk), encourage them to look for special friends and then "Fred talk, read the word". In the word 'ship', they would identify the special friend 'sh' before reading the word "sh-i-p, ship".

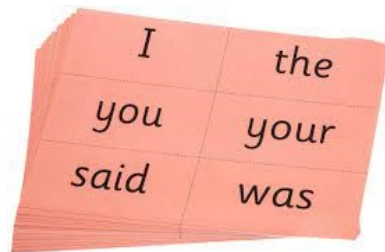


Red words

Some words are 'tricky' because they contain letters that don't match the sounds the child has been taught.

For example, 'said' has 'ai' making an 'e' sound.

We teach these common exception words as Red words. In the early Storybooks, these words are printed in red text. Remind your child not to use Fred Talk to read Red words but instead to stop and think. Tell them the word if needed.



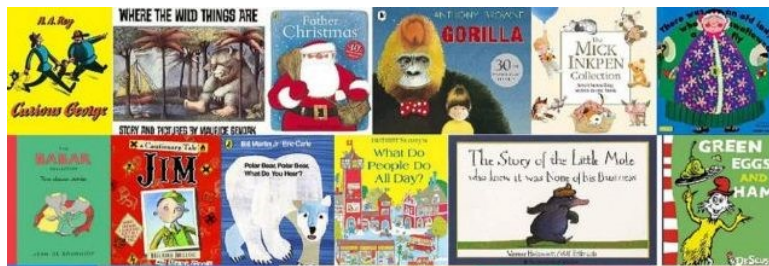
Reading at home

Your child will read the same Ditty Sheet or book multiple times. Re-reading the same book helps children to become confident readers. Each time they re-read, they build their fluency/speed and comprehension. As your child can read all the words in their book, they will feel like a reader. We do not send stories home the children cannot read because we always want them to be set up to succeed in their reading.



Reading tips

- Read little and often—10-15 minutes is usually long enough
- Choose a quiet time—turn off the TV
- Make it a special bonding time
- Talk about the book—ask your child questions to check they understand what they have read
- Share stories with your child—keep reading to your child so they can enjoy a range of stories and hear you as a reader too
- Visit the library to access a wider range of books
- Talk to your child's teacher if you have concerns
- Write in your child's reading record each time they read



Online resources

Free e-books for home reading:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>

Read, Write, Inc. guide for parents:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>