

Home Reading

Guidance for Parents



We hope you will enjoy reading with your child at home. Home reading books should match your child's reading stage and it is expected that children read every day at home. This guide is designed to give parents some ideas of how to further extend your child's understanding of their home reading book.

Children are awarded a Dojo a day if they read at home. Parents will need to sign their child's reading record book to say they have read at home in order for a child to receive their Dojo point.

Before reading the book, look at the picture on the front cover, read the title and predict what the book might be about. Look at the pictures in the book and ask your child to describe what they can see and what they think is happening. After reading the first page, ask them to consider if their prediction has changed and see if they can explain their thinking.

At different points in the story, pause and ask your child how they feel about what is happening in the story. For example, do they feel happy, excited, sad or worried about what is happening? Can they relate this to any personal experiences they have had in the past?

Play 'Ask the Author' - After reading a story or a non-fiction text (like a biography or an information leaflet) ask your child to think of three questions they would like to ask the author.

Consider the author's purpose for writing - why do you think the author decided to write the book?

When reading a story book, pause at different places and ask your child...

What do you think might happen next?

What do you think will happen at the end? Why do you think that?

How is the character feeling now? How do you know?

Who is your favourite character and why?

Sometimes children can memorise a story - Point to the words from the story out of order and see if they can recognise them. Ask them to think of a sentence with a word from the story. For example, you might choose the word boy and they might say "The boy could jump very high!"

Play 'Word Substitute' - Choose a word in a sentence. How many alternative words they can think of to replace the word, making sure the sentence still makes sense? For example in the sentence: Warily, the girl walked home. The word 'walked' could be substituted with the words 'limped', 'plodded' and 'stumbled' and the sentence would still make sense.

Try to think of as many interesting words as you can together to describe the characters in the story e.g. grizzly, horrible, enormous, tired, excited, friendly or tiny. Ask your child to draw a picture of one of the characters from the book in their reading activity book. Write some of the words around the picture to describe the character.

Encourage your child to retell the story in their own words in different ways, for example:

- drawing pictures
- acting the story out (using different voices for different characters)
- using props from around the house
- drawing pictures and putting them in order

When reading non-fiction books, talk about different facts they have found. How do these relate to their own experiences? Discuss how the 'visuals' in the text, like images, charts and photos help the reader to understand the written information.

After reading a story several times, think of different ways it could end. Draw a picture and/or write the alternative endings.