



Cove Infant School Guide to Reading



A Help Guide for Parents

Tips for helping your child to enjoy books:

- Read books regularly to your child.
- It is wonderful to read a favourite book repeatedly. This will help your child to understand about story language as they will begin to join in with repeated phrases.
- Look for books on topics that you know your child is interested in - maybe dragons, insects, cookery or a certain sport. Reading doesn't just mean fiction books.
- When you read to your child, make the experience interactive - ask questions about the story, the pictures and what they think of the characters.
- Enrol your child at the local library so they can try new books regularly.
- Keep an eye out for the themes that catch your child's imagination at school - and help follow it up with more reading.
- Let your child see you reading at home. Children need to understand that reading is important and has a purpose. Read the newspaper, post, leaflets that come through the door etc.
- Make up stories together, using story language or characters they are familiar with.

Your child's reading:

- Schedule a regular time for reading - perhaps when you get home from school or after dinner.
- Turn off the television and try to find a quiet place together.
- Practise daily - 5 minutes every day is better than 15 minutes at the weekend.
- Make reading a happy and positive experience for your child.
- Practise your child's reading book and words.
- Sign/tick/initial/write a comment in your child's reading record book.

Wordless Picture Books

Wordless picture books are told entirely through their illustrations — they are books without words, or sometimes just a few words.

Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Sharing a Book

- Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.
- Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Enjoy the illustrations, which are often rich with detail. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the setting and the use of colour. Talk to each other about what you see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.
- Enjoy the pictures and point out a few things, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Ham it up! Have characters use different voices, add sound effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.

Word Books

Once your child starts to recognise some words and is beginning to apply their phonic knowledge, they will start to read word books.

Here are some tips for helping your child to read the text.

- Check your child is reading print from left to right. Make sure they point to each word with their finger as they read.
- Encourage children to 'sound talk' words they don't know and then blend the sounds. Allow your child some thinking time before you intervene and support them.
- Let your child use the picture clues to help them. Ask 'What is happening in the picture that could help?' Don't cover up the pictures because you feel your child has learnt the book from memory. That is all part of the reading process. If this happens you could always play 'fastest finger' sometimes. Call out a key word from the book and your child has to find it in the text and point to it.
- If they make a mistake ask whether the word looks correct for the word they read - Does it have the right first, last, or middle sounds?
- Repeat the sentence as they read it and then ask 'Does that make sense?'

We use reading strategies with the children at school. These strategies get progressively harder as the children develop their reading skills.

1) Look at the picture and 1st sound of the word.



2) Sound out and blend

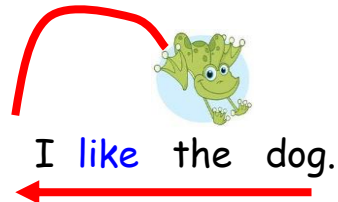


g - e - t

3) Break the word into chunks



4) Skip the word and then go back



5) Read the sentence again and check it makes sense.



Sight Vocabulary

Your child will bring home some words to learn by sight. We use action words to help children learn to recognise these words. Initially children see the picture to help them conduct the action and read the word. The picture then needs to be covered so your child can learn to read the word from memory. Once your child becomes confident at reading the words they have, from memory (with no picture clue), they will be given a new set of words. Practising these words regularly, will help your child to recognise these words in books and in turn will develop the fluency of their reading.

Activities to help learn the words.

- Attach words to toys that your child plays with so they can read them as they play.
- Put the words up around the kitchen so as you are making dinner you can call out a word and your child can find it.
- Make it a challenge - if your child can read a word they win the card, if they can't then you win it. Who gets the most?
- Splat the word - Call out a word and your child has to hit the word with a fly swat!
- Write the words on the ground outside for hopscotch or to throw a ball/beanbag at.
- As reading develops, use the word cards to make simple phrases or sentences.

Here are some things to talk about, when sharing books at home.

Before reading

- Locate and recall title
- Talk about the parts of a book - spine, front cover, back cover, blurb.
- What do you think this book might be about? Why do you think that?

During and After Reading

- What do you think X might say?
- What is happening in the picture?
- Chat about the story and relate to their own experiences.
- Who is in the story?
- How does X feel? How do you know?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Where did the story take place?
- What happened at the beginning? End?
- Did you enjoy the story? Why?
- What was your favourite part of the story? Why?

- Non-fiction books - look at the contents, index and glossary pages.

What else can your child read?

Your child can read anything!

- Comics
- Magazines
- Travel brochures
- Instructions or recipes
- What's on television tonight
- Information books
- Manuals
- Newspapers
- Poems
- Recorded stories with a book
- Sports Reports
- Shopping lists
- Menus