



Reading at home

“Reading aloud to your children is a gift that will last a lifetime.”

Maya Angelou, author & poet



Why is Reading important?

Reading is a vital skill in education and allows children to access a deeper understanding of the world around them. Studies show that reading for pleasure is strongly linked to children’s educational performance. It is suggested that children who read for enjoyment every day, not only perform better in reading tests than those who don’t, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background. Therefore, reading matters emotionally, culturally and educationally and it matters to everyone.

Creating a positive reading routine

Reading with your child should be an enjoyable and regular experience, where you can connect and be curious about what you are about to read together. It is an opportunity to have quality time with your child and get an insight into their amazing progress and learning journey. Here are some tips to ensure you are creating a rewarding reading experience for your child:

- **Be curious** – ‘Let’s look at the front cover together – what do you think this story is about?’
- **Make it enjoyable** – if you’re not showing interest and enjoyment, your child won’t either.
- **Read stories again** – revisit favourite stories, encourage your child to join in with bits they know, explore interesting vocabulary together and link stories and events to personal experiences.

Breadth & Depth

It is important that children read a wide range of books to increase their confidence and fluency. By exposing your child to different text types, you are offering them an insight into different worlds, extending their vocabulary and showing a variety of images and cultural insights. Here are some different genres to start exploring with your child that stretch beyond fiction:

- Non-fiction/ fact and information texts
- Science fiction & fantasy
- Historical fiction
- Poetry and playwriting
- Graphic novels

Freedom of choice

If we want children to read for pleasure, we need to ensure they are reading books that they deem enjoyable. Choice and interest are highly related. Therefore, try to encourage your child’s independence with reading so that they can take ownership of this. Research states that, “having access to resources and having books of their own has a greater impact on your child’s attainment.” Therefore, try to create a reading culture at home where your child can explore choice and freedom with their reading.