

Promoting Reading for Pleasure at home



Introduction

There is strong evidence linking reading for pleasure and educational outcomes but the benefits of reading for pleasure go beyond this and stretch throughout a person's life. Reading increases our understanding of our own identity, improves empathy and gives us an insight into the world view of others. We have put this poster together to help you promote reading for pleasure at home.

Reading Role Models

We need to make sure that the children see us reading. Many children see their parent on their phone and just assume that they are playing a game as that is what they would use the phone for. Not understanding that we may be reading. Similarly with kindles, children may think it is just a tablet.

The more they see the adults around them read, the more they will consider doing it themselves. Show them that it is fun!



Bedtime Stories

Due to time restraints, many families miss out on bedtime stories but the benefits are huge! Reading to your child for just 10 minutes a day/night can improve their vocabulary, encourage them to read independently and can also improve parent/child relationships. This is not just a KS1 issue. Older children love a bedtime story too (even if they won't always admit it!)

Bedtime stories can be whatever you and your child want to read together! (Extra tip - Do the voices! You can have a good giggle together at your brilliant/miserable attempts at doing various accents...)

If you don't feel confident reading aloud there is always the CBeebies bedtime story, but do this as a family activity rather than the children on their own, then you can talk about the story together afterwards.



Book Talk

Sometimes, children will just want to sit and listen to a book because they are so engrossed in the story. This is completely fine, there is no need to quiz them after every chapter that you read.



But sometimes informal book talk can be a fantastic way to discuss what has been read. Picture books lend themselves well to informal book talk because children want to explore and discuss the pictures, which often tell us so much more than the words.

- **Make links/connections** Do the characters/settings remind you of anyone/anywhere? Have you been in a similar situation? Have you learnt about this from TV/School?
- **Make predictions** Can you guess what the story is about? What will happen next?
- **Discuss/introduce vocabulary** If there is a tricky word, can you explain what it means?
- **Discuss emotions** How does the story make you feel? Some children find it hard to articulate their feelings, so if it is modelled for them by adults it can help them understand their own feelings.

Allow Their Choices

We need to allow children to read what they want to (within reason). Some children may find comfort in re-reading a book. There is nothing wrong with this at all. As adults we re-watch films many times and notice new things with each viewing, the same applies with books.

Comics, graphic novels and audiobooks are all valid reading materials and shouldn't be looked down upon. The same goes for the popular authors like Walliams and Kinney (Diary of a Wimpy Kid).

Imagine that books are like food... Comfort reads are not nutritional but we still love them (just in moderation). Harder richer texts are delicious, but too many can make us feel a little overwhelmed and needing of something easier occasionally.

If you do feel that your child is 'stuck' on a particular author or genre and you need book recommendations, speak to your child's class teacher or check out these reading tube maps that may help. <https://tinyurl.com/reading-tubemap>

