



Mickleover Primary School

Supporting Your Child with Reading

Getting Started

Sharing books - Always remember that we teach phonics to help our children learn to read and write and in order to do this successfully they need to love books! The best way to help your child is to read as many books as possible in both English and your child's home language. Read anything that your child is interested in (including magazines, menus, etc.). You don't have to read all (or any) of the words each time. Remember to use silly voices, make sound effects, pull faces, act things out, talk about what you can see, talk about what you both think and feel and have fun!

General tips to support reading

Once is never enough! - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their school reading scheme book. Re-reading helps children read more quickly and accurately.

Dig deeper into the story - Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think he did that?" (you could use the 'questions to get more from your child's reading book' for some varied ideas).

Take control of the television - It's difficult for reading to compete with TV, smart devices and video games. Encourage reading as a distraction free activity.

Be patient - When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind your child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

Pick books that are at the right level - Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

I read to you, you read to me - Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

One more time with feeling - When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often kids are so busy figuring out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.



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How can I boost reading comprehension?

In school we use DERIC to promote reading comprehension skills. DERIC helps us to understand a text fully using the following strategies.

Decode: this is the ability to apply phonics skills fluently and confidently.

Explain: this requires pupils to explain what is happening in a text and the meaning of vocabulary.

Retrieve: this is the ability to retrieve information from a text.

Interpret: this expects children to read between the lines and hunt for clues to answer less obvious questions.

Choice: this refers to author choice and how they have used words to engage the reader.

What questions can I ask my child?

- Why do you think the story is called....?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Which part of the story do you think is the funniest/saddest/most interesting?
- Who is your favourite character and why?
- What's going to happen next?
- How do you think that character is feeling?

Any other top tips?

- Choose a quiet time to read.
- Make reading enjoyable; model expression.
- 5-10 Minutes each session is more valuable than 1 hour a week.
- Is your child memorising? Read backwards. Roll a dice. Cut and order sentences.
- Maintain the flow, turn take!
- Be positive.
- Regular practice.
- Talk about the books.
- Variety is important.
- Read to your children.