

A guide to Reading at home.

Reading is a fundamental life skill and it is essential that children become fluent, expressive readers and are able to understand what they read in order to be able to access work across the curriculum. It is also important that children develop a love of reading for pleasure.

The first steps in a child's reading journey are so important and include things such as:

- * Learning how to treat a book.
- * Knowing that print carries meaning and is read from left to right.
- * Discovering that they can read things in the environment as well as in books.
- * Recognising letters and the sounds that they make.
- * Practising segmenting and then blending words to read them.
- * Learning to read 'tricky red words' by sight as they can't be sounded out.
- * Discussing what they have read to develop understanding.

When sitting down to read with your child it is great if you can find somewhere comfy, reduce the amount of distractions and give them your full attention. Encourage them to hold the book and turn the pages themselves, following the text that they are reading with their finger. Discuss what you are reading and ask questions. Praise them for their effort and be specific about the reading skills they have demonstrated.

Questions you can ask whilst reading with your child:

- * Look at the front cover - What do you think the story will be about?
- * What is an author / illustrator?
- * Read the blurb - What are you looking forward to?
- * What does this word mean?
- * What do you think will happen next?
- * Who are the characters?
- * How do you think the characters might be feeling?
- * What is happening in the pictures?
- * How do you think the story will end?
- * What do you think the next adventure might be?
- * What was your favourite part of the story?
- * Was there anything you didn't like about the story?
- * Can you retell the story in your own words?



We love to hear about your child's reading at home and it helps us to build a picture of your child as a reader so please record a brief comment on Tapestry with what they have done well and anything they have found tricky.