

How to support your child's progress in reading in Early Years class 1

Reading is fun and is a key skill that helps us to learn and live our lives – so starting to read is an exciting and important stage in children's development. As with so much of their learning, children practise many of the skills they need for reading before they actually start to make sense of printed words.

It is vital that early reading experiences are happy and positive. The aim should be not just for children to learn to read, but to enjoy reading and listening to stories. Sharing books with children for their pleasure and enjoyment should build enthusiasm and enjoyment. Children should experience a wide range of genres including stories, rhymes, poems and non-fiction. They will begin to join in with familiar stories and become aware of patterns in stories.

There is lots you can do to help your child move towards learning to read. Talk about what you can see on the page in the book and encourage them to point out things. Show them how to hold a book correctly turning one page at a time. Make links to the story whenever possible. For example if a book is about a park, ask them if they can remember your own trips to the park. What do we do there? What do you like to play on at the park?

Talk to them about what they think might happen next in the story or ask them to retell the story themselves.

Please use the following tips to let us know how they have been getting on every time they share a book at home-

- make a note of the date shared together. For example, 03/09/15
- make a comment about any improvements that you notice, eg. "Ellie is beginning to predict what might happen at the end of the story."
- let us know if they are finding anything difficult, eg. "George is struggling to hold a book correctly."
- tell us about how much they liked the book

Please share a book with your child every day for **10 minutes each time**. Make it fun – choose books you both enjoy, not only the books they bring back from school. Talk about the pictures and characters and make up your own stories. Reading regularly really makes such a BIG difference.