



How to support early reading skills for Reception children:



Each Friday your child will be bringing home a 'book for bedtime' that they have chosen from a range at school (to be returned the following Wednesday). Please read the story/information to your child and talk to them about what they've heard. Alongside this book (starting in next week) your child will also bring home a reading scheme book chosen by Mrs Norwood or Mrs Roberts. The first reading scheme book your child will bring home is a 'Lilac' book, these books are wordless and enable your child to develop their story telling skills and vocabulary. These skills are crucial in order to become a 'reader' alongside phonics and word recognition skills.

Please see below for ideas on how to support your child's early comprehension skills...

Before you open the book...

Look at the cover – what can you see? What do you think it could be about? Which characters are in this book?

Find the title – the name of the book. Read this to your child. Talk about what the title makes you think about the book.

Where do you think the story is set?

Is it a story book or an information book?



Discuss the pictures...

Take your time and look at all of the pictures in the book, turn the pages carefully and talk about each page – give children the language to discuss the stories. There may be pictures of things they don't know, it is your job to explain the things they see.

If your child is not confident to talk about the story, say your ideas out loud: "I think..." "I like..." "I wonder..."

Talk about what you can see: What is happening? What are the characters doing? How are they feeling? How do you know?

Make up a story together.



Ask questions...

What might happen next?

Why did that happen?

How are the characters feeling?

Did you like that part?

Which part of the story was your favourite?

Can you think of a different ending?

What would happen if...

(Until children get confident with such questions, you may need to model answering for them.)



Make reading fun...

- Add funny voices.
- Include games such as I-spy - Make up a challenge – who can spot the most... can you find...
- Get creative with the story - The beauty of having a no words in a book is that you can make up anything.



Make space and time to read together. Turn off the TV and devices, have 5-10 minutes with your story, snuggle up and have special time together.

Looking after books...

It's really important that the children value books and learn how to use them with care. Please show your child how to turn the pages carefully and encourage them to put books away once they've been read.

Have fun!

Most importantly we want the children to develop a life long love of reading and books. Sharing a book with your child every day is a lovely nurturing experience, it'll also support their concentration and vocabulary development.

Please share your child's books from school with them, reading/sharing a book more than once helps children to be familiar with the book and have more confidence when retelling the story. A story each night at bed time is important quality time with your child and helps children's love of reading develop. Any reading can be recorded in your child's reading record; all reading is important and valued!