

## Home Reading

It is of great benefit to your child's learning across all curriculum areas to read daily for extended periods of time. This builds stamina for reading, gives children experience and builds on their prior knowledge. Books help us to learn new things! Reading should not just be limited to Home Reading- make sure you read to your child daily, make sure they visit the library, make books a special part of their lives- a visit to the local bookshop is always a treat, as is a new book to treasure.

***Make a schedule for Home Reading*** that fits with your other daily activities. Do it at a time when it is the most relaxing- not while you're cooking dinner or getting dressed for school. Make sure it's a special time where you actually sit down and look at the book together, so you can share the story and discuss the illustrations. Your role is to relax, enjoy the time, discuss the book and model. Your role is to celebrate their success and progress, and make them feel independent in their reading behaviours! Their role is to feel proud, share their learning and their new skills with you, and enjoy the special time.

***Ask your child to show you what they have chosen***- it's important for children to feel responsible for choosing their own books, and helps them feel responsible for their own reading.

***Don't worry if they've read it before***- it's actually really important for children to reread stories over and over. Repetition helps them fully grasp the meaning in the story and familiarity with the story encourages fluent reading, smooth phrasing and expression. This is really important. Teachers select the box that children borrow from very carefully. Even if your child can read every book in a box, we might make a decision to keep them at a certain level because we don't feel they are ready to move on for a number of reasons. Children need to attain fluency at levels before they move on, or their future learning will not be as powerful and effective. We have chosen to run our Home Reading program using just right books this year- students should bring home a book they can read with little difficulty. At the same time, the book shouldn't be way too easy for them. Keep filling in your child's Home Reading journal, we do check it and take note of your comments.

***Give a brief book introduction*** discussing illustrations (meaning,) and pointing out any difficult words or names in the text your child might find

challenging (visual.) Another important way you can help your child is to discuss the story in the way it is written- if it is written about the past, talk about it as being in the past. This helps children get the structure right as they are reading.

***Remember as your child reads- Pause, Prompt, Praise!*** The pause part is tricky: finding the right length of time to give your child to help them solve words independently is hard- don't jump in too quickly and don't let them struggle on for too long without help. If they do need help- you can try a prompt to help them work out the word independently, rather than giving them the word outright. Independent learning is always the most valuable, children start off as passive readers- they often stop and wait for an adult to jump in and help. If we encourage them to become active readers, to solve things or themselves, we are offering them learning that is the most powerful learning as it is transferrable to other situations and environments.

***After reading,*** discuss the meaning and the story. Comment on what they did well, praise them for fixing any mistakes they made or rereading things to fix them or make them sound good.

***Remember too, that children don't necessarily improve their reading at a uniform pace.*** Sometimes there are flat times, sometimes they will forget words they knew yesterday, or even not recognise words they knew on the previous page. This is ok while new learning is happening!

***And finally,*** if it's just not working, let it go for the evening and read the book to your child, or choose another one altogether. Don't end a reading session with your child feeling flat or negative- keep reading a joy! If they are having trouble- we are here to help at school, don't worry about trying to teach them new things at home that are frustrating for them.

Home Reading should never replace reading at home- your child needs you to read to them daily, and needs a range of texts to read and to have read to them. Keep a couple of books in the car, let your child read in bed before or after you've read to them, encourage them to read anytime, in any place.

Attached are some prompts that are invaluable for helping children to become independent readers and active learners.

## Prep reading assistance at home for parents

At school, readers are taught to think about the following to help them decode text:

- Can I see it?
- Does it sounds right?
- Does it make sense?

Some reading prompts to draw attention to the meaning of the story.

*Does it make sense?*

- Does this help? (point to a helpful clue in the picture)
- Would that make sense?

Some prompts to help with looking closely at the words.

*Can I see it?*

- Look for something that can help you?
- Where is the hard bit/tricky words?
- Read it with your finger.
- Run a finger under it while you say it slowly.
- Use your eyes and think about it.
- Were there enough words?
- Get you rmouth ready for this **sounds**. (First letter of a word)
- Does it look like 'went'?
- Why did you stop?

Some prompts to help with reading that sounds right.

*Does it sound right?*

- Did that sound right to you?
- Do we say it like that?
- How could we finish it?