

# **TOP TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD**

## **EYFS & KS1**

### **1) CHOOSE A QUIET TIME**

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. 10 to 15 minutes is usually long enough.

### **2) MAKE READING ENJOYABLE**

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest, then do something else.

### **3) MAINTAIN THE FLOW**

If your child mispronounces a word, do not interrupt immediately. Allow your child to self-correct using their phonics skills. You can always discuss mispronounced words at the end of your reading time.

### **4) SUCCESS IS THE KEY**

Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless because the flow is lost, the text cannot be understood, and children can easily become reluctant readers.

### **5) VISIT THE LIBRARY**

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly – remember it's free! You can always pop in to the library in Crossgates when you are shopping. You could just spend time reading/looking at books there even if you don't borrow them to bring them home.

## **6) REGULAR PRACTICE**

Try to read with your child every day. Little and often is best.

## **7) COMMUNICATE WITH SCHOOL**

Your child has a reading diary. Please comment in the diary every night to record your child's reading progress. Children can add their own "I wonder...." Questions.

## **8) TALK ABOUT THE BOOKS**

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Being able to understand what has been read is just as important. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

## **9) VARIETY IS IMPORTANT**

Remember that children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, hardbacks, comics, magazines, poems, recipes, instructions and information books.

## **10) READ TO YOUR CHILD – Don't forget your bedtime story**

Children love listening to stories. Choose favourite books or try new ones and set aside time every night before bed for a quiet, uninterrupted story time. Read with expression and get excited about the book. Talk about the story together – the characters, the action and any new and exciting vocabulary.

Overleaf please find some question stems, in the VIPERS style we use in school, that you can use to question your child when reading together at home.

## Question stems to promote 'Book Talk'.

<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does the word ..... mean in this sentence?</li> <li>• Find and copy a word which means.</li> <li>• What does this word or phrase tell you about .....?</li> <li>• Which word in this section do you think is the most important? Why?</li> <li>• Which of the words best describes the character/setting/mood etc?</li> <li>• Can you think of any other words the author could have used to describe this?</li> <li>• Why do you think ..... is repeated in this section?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infer</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why was..... feeling.....?</li> <li>• Why did ..... happen?</li> <li>• Why did ..... say .....?</li> <li>• Can you explain why.....?</li> <li>• What do you think the author intended when they said.....?</li> <li>• How does ..... make you feel?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Predict</b></p>	<p>Look at the book cover/blurb – what do you think this book will be about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think will happen next? What makes you think this?</li> <li>• How does the choice of character or setting affect what will happen next?</li> <li>• What is happening? What do you think happened before? What do you think will happen after? What do you think?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Explain</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is your favourite character? Why?</li> <li>• Why do you think all the main characters are girls in this book?</li> <li>• Would you like to live in this setting? Why/why not?</li> <li>• Is there anything you would change about this story?</li> <li>• Do you like this text? What do you like about it?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Retrieve</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of text is this?</li> <li>• Who did.....? Where did.....?</li> <li>• When did.....?</li> <li>• What happened when.....?</li> <li>• Why did ..... happen?</li> <li>• How did .....?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many.....?</li> <li>• What happened to.....?</li> </ul>
<p>Sequence (KS1)</p>	<p>Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened after .....</li> <li>• What was the first thing that happened in the story?</li> <li>• Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?</li> <li>• In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?</li> </ul>