



Reading at Yeadon Westfield Infant School

Helping your child read at home

Reading

At Yeadon Westfield Infant School we believe that reading is a key skill and a vital element to children's access to life long learning.

Reading is about understanding and taking meaning from words, sentences and pictures. Without understanding reading is speaking exercise.

We hope that this booklet will give you a few ideas about how you can help your child at home, however if you have any questions do not hesitate to come in and speak to any member of staff.

How to help your child at home

In the Car/On foot: Point out signs – can they see the letters in the McDonalds sign, Pizza Hut, Marks & Spencers

Go to the library together: Choose books and share together.

Don't worry if they only like reading comics – this is still reading!

Reading to your child: Read a bedtime story to your child every night. This is one of the key things that you can do at home. The more stories and story language children hear, the better they get at predicting what might happen, know where stories are set, the difference between good characters and bad characters etc.

Talk to your child: If children are good at talking, they understand how words and sentences fit together. This will then help them when it comes to both reading and writing.

Getting ready for reading

We all know that lives are busier than ever these days but if you can, try and find a quiet time when they're not too tired to share their book with you. (Sunday night after a busy weekend or Monday morning at breakfast might not be the best time!)

Make yourself comfortable, turn the TV. off and (try!) to have as few distractions as possible.

1. Book Introductions

* Title Page – Where is the title?

Can you read any words in the title?

(If they can't, read the title to them)

What can you see in the picture?

Who can you see?

What are they doing?

* Back page – Is there any 'blurb' on the back?

Can you read any words in the 'blurb'?

(If they can't, read the 'blurb' to them)

Using the pictures and any words we have read can you say what you think this book might be about? What might happen?

2. Reading the pictures

Before looking at any words in the book, go through and read the pictures.

On each page ask questions such as:

Who can you see?

Where are they?

What are they doing?

Why do you think this is happening?

What else is happening?

Can you see anything in the background?

3. Practise some phonics skills

Practise sounding out some words from the book

Remind them to say their sounds properly

Use robot arms to help

Ask them to find the word on the page

Ask them to find the picture (of the word) on the page

Can you find that same word on pages.....

Let's have a race, who can point to the word cat first

Play I spy: I spy a word that begins with ch, on page 4 can you see the word I'm looking for?

4. Practise some 'tricky' words (words that can't be 'sounded' out (e.g. said, the)

Quick activities:

Choose a tricky word from the book

Can your child have a go at reading it (if not tell them the word)

Can you find it on pages.....

Can you find this word anywhere else in the book?

Count how many times this word appears in the book.

Longer Games:

Play My Pile/Your Pile: Write tricky words on a bit of paper

Read them

If your child gets them right it goes in their pile

If they get them wrong it goes in your pile

Practise the ones they got wrong

Look at the shape of the word

Play pairs game: Write 2/3 tricky words on bits of paper

Repeat

Now turn pieces of paper face down and mix up

Turn over 2 pieces and read (tell them the word if they're not sure)

Have you got a pair?

If you have, take them and have another go

If you haven't turn them back over and let your partner have a go

3.Read the words in the book

4. Questions after reading

Can you retell the story?

Where was the story set?

What happened at the beginning, middle end?

Why?

How did the characters feel?

Why?

Can you find the page where.....

Did you enjoy this story?

Would you recommend this to a friend?

Why/why not?

5. Other activities to do with the book

Could you suggest a different title?

Could you think of a different sentence about page 4?

Could you tell the story from a different character's point of view?

Could you think of a different ending?

What are the characters saying to each other in each of the pictures?

* Finally praise your child as often as possible!

Some Frequently Asked Questions

My child is tired after a day at school and they don't want to read

Don't worry, what you don't want to happen is for their reading with you to turn into a battle or a stressful time.

Read the pictures with them.

Get them to find a few words

You read a page, they read a page.

What do I do if my child is stuck on a word?

If it's a word they can sound out, encourage them to use their sounds.

Tell them the sounds and see if they can blend them together to read.

If it's a tricky word they can't sound out then tell them the word. If it takes too long to work out each word the meaning of the sentence will be lost.

My child can read all the words in the book. Is it too easy?

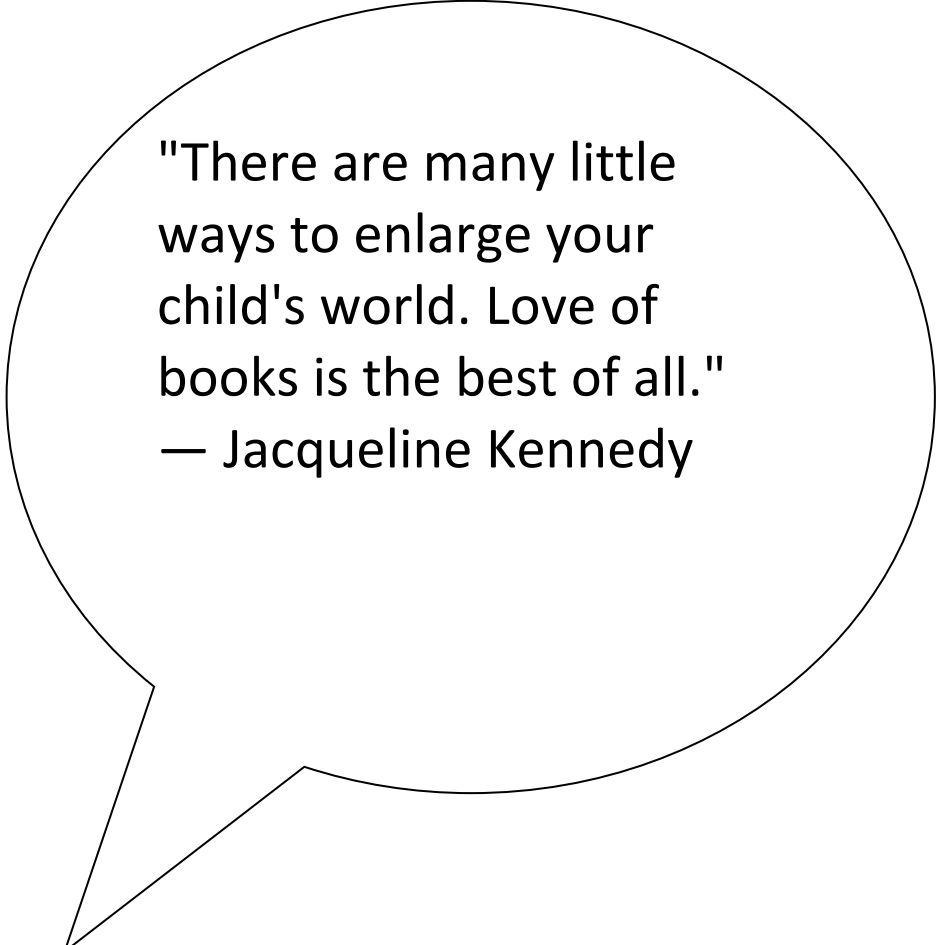
No, the most important thing is that children feel that they are able to read. What we want is for children to be able to read the books they are given and not find it too difficult.

Remember, reading is about understanding.

Can they answer all the questions about the book and why things have happened?

And Finally....

We would like to say a big thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. Childrens' success in reading is down to the partnership between home and school and we value all your continued support.



"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."
— Jacqueline Kennedy