



Reading with your child at home

Research proves that children who enjoy reading do better at school in all subjects. Reading improves all of a child's literacy skills and can offer them a lifetime of enjoyment and learning.

At The Firs we aim to promote a love of reading and feel that children discovering books and how to use and enjoy them is crucial to their development. Through the use of our Read Write Inc. reading programme and after this Accelerated Reader as well as in other lessons devoted to reading development, we aim to give children high quality reading experiences that support and challenge them to delve further into the texts they are encountering and develop confidence in being able to discuss them.

Reading with your child at home is a crucially important way to support their learning. Reading books together, reading to your child, hearing them read, discussing reading technique, stories, poems and non-fiction texts are all key ways that will help your child to develop into an able and accomplished reader and writer.

Here are some general tips for reading and a resource bank of ideas for questions that may help you with sharing books and talking with your children about what they are reading at home.

Remember that children need to read a variety of texts such as stories, reports, information texts, poems, etc. They also love being read to by adults, particularly if you can do the voices! If you show children you enjoy reading it will have a positive impact.

Sharing a book with a child

Make sure your child has a comfortable, quiet place to sit. Distractions such as TV can make it difficult for children to concentrate. Give the book to your child for five minutes so they can look at it alone. This allows the child to investigate and explore the text and pictures independently before starting to read.

Read the title together and ask them to tell you about the story and any questions they may have before beginning. Remember talking about books is as important as reading them. Children need to have enthusiasm for texts so allow them to choose their own from the library as well as their school reading books.

Reading aloud

It is important that children are given the opportunity to read aloud to an adult as often as possible. (This is still really important for children in Y3 and Y4!) It improves their decoding and listening skills. Help your child to Fredtalk (sound out and blend) any unfamiliar words. If they are still unsure, tell them the word and explain what it means. Then read the sentence again together.

Remember to use praise a lot and tell them why they have done well i.e. "I really enjoyed listening to that sentence because you made it sound so exciting!"



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Comprehension

One of the most important parts of reading is comprehension. If a child decodes fluently, but does not fully understand the story or text, then they struggle to enjoy or appreciate books. It is therefore essential that children have the opportunity to discuss what they are reading. One of the more crucial parts of reading is being able to conclude and infer ideas.

Open-ended questions such as; 'why do you think that happened?' or 'what makes you think that?' will help with this. Asking children to tell you why or show you clues in the text/pictures can improve their inference skills dramatically.

Here is a list of potential questions that could be used in a discussion with a child about a book. This is not an exhaustive list but by *choosing a few* of these it should hopefully give some starting points for discussion that will help children to unpick and fully understand what they are reading.

Sample questions that you could use for book talk:

1. Why did you choose this book? What attracted you to it? Did you know anything about this book before you started reading it? What do you think about it now you have read some?
2. Is it how you imagined it would be? Why/why not?
3. Could you tell me what's happened so far (fiction) or what this book is about (non-fiction)? What has been the most exciting part? Why?
4. Have you come across this word before?
5. How did you know how to say it? Are there any clues in the word? Does it look like other words you know?
6. Can you work out what that word means? How can you use the rest of the sentence, page or pictures to help you?
7. What other word could the author have used that means the same sort of thing?
8. Can you tell me what has happened in this chapter/on this page?
9. Why do you think X (a character) did that?
10. How could we describe that character? What are they like? How do we know that from what they say and do?
11. How do you think x (a character) is feeling at the moment? Show me which words/phrases tell us that.
12. Why do you think that happened?



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13. What is the main thing that happened or changed?
14. Is there anything that we are still waiting to find out?
15. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
16. How do you think the author wants us to feel at this moment?
17. What do you notice about the way this page is set out? How does that help us to understand better?
18. Have you read any other books/poems by this author? Did you like them as much? Why/Why not?
19. Who is your favourite author? Why do you like his/her books? What would you say to recommend them to other people?
20. What kinds of books would you like to read more of? Why