

Supporting Your Child's Learning

Advice to Parents



*This leaflet is designed to give you some information to
help you support your child's reading at home.*



Why Read?

Reading is a key aspect of a child's learning at Regent Farm and by working closely with families we can help support children to develop a love of reading. Reading is an important skill which aids learning in all curriculum areas.

Research shows that children who read for pleasure have stronger reading and writing skills, a broader vocabulary and increased general knowledge.

We are dedicated to ensuring all children enjoy reading as well as becoming confident readers.

We understand the importance of creating parent partnership and have included in this booklet some information about how you can support your child's reading at home.



Early Reading

Try to choose a quiet time every night with your child and make yourselves comfortable.

Keep a variety of reading materials available (picture books, fiction, non-fiction, chapter books, atlases, dictionaries, magazines, newspapers, join the library and visit regularly).

Be a role model – share your own experiences of books (e.g. talking about your favourite book) and read yourself – children will want to follow your example.

Let your child hold the book and point to the words as you read them.

Use the pictures as well; there is often an additional story in them.

Allow plenty of time for discussion before you turn over a page. A valuable question is: "what do you think will happen next?"

Let your child read the story to you afterwards, even if this is reciting by heart, or making the story up from the pictures. This is a very important stage. Memorising is not cheating.

If your child is too tired or reluctant to join in, just make it an opportunity for you to read in a relaxed and enjoyable way. You can always come back to it.



Home Reading Books

Look at the front cover, back cover and pictures to engage children.

Encourage children to point to the words as they read.

Give children time and encouragement to have a go at reading independently.

If they are stuck on a word ask your child to find the sounds within the word.

Make the experience interactive by asking questions about the story, the pictures and what they think of the characters – focus on comprehension as well as word decoding.

Encourage children to spot any spellings they are learning (especially tricky words which they cannot sound out e.g. the, you, was).



More Confident Readers

Confident readers have reached the stage where they no longer wish to read to an adult and may want to read silently to themselves.

The interaction between the parent and child changes at this stage.

Sometimes it is still very important to hear your child read out loud since this is a different skill to reading in your head and helps consolidate understanding.

To ensure that your child's reading development continues to move forward, we would encourage parents to question their child about what they are reading, at an appropriate time, to extend their reading and share their enjoyment of the book.

This booklet includes some examples of questions you might ask.



Questions You Could Ask

What is the title?

Who is the author? Illustrator?

What kind of book is it? (fiction/ non-fiction/ poetry etc)

Can you tell anything about the book before you start reading? How do you know?

What has happened so far?

What do you think might happen next? Why?

How would you like the story to end?

Where is the story set?

Who are the characters?

Who do you like? Dislike? Why?

There are additional resources on our school website which may help with supporting reading such as links to videos and websites.

We also have detailed booklets about supporting your child with phonics, early reading and developing reading. These are available on our website.

Please ask if you would like any paper copies of these documents, we will be happy to provide them for you.

