

Helping Your Child With Reading at Home

A Guide for Parents

Year 3 to Year 6



Teaching Literacy in the junior years focuses on helping pupils develop into critical, responsible, and effective communicators. Children throughout these year groups can be at varying levels of development. Some pupils are just beginning to read or write fluently, while others may have a lot of experience in both reading and writing.

As a parent, you can support your child's learning both at home and at school in many ways. Here are some things you can do with your child:

- Continue to build a good relationship with your child's teacher, seeking advice and suggestions for learning.
- Establish with your child a consistent routine for completing homework, including a regular study time and place.
- Discuss school work, successes, concerns, and interests with your child.
- Encourage your child to "exercise" his or her mind by doing crossword puzzles, brain teasers, and word searches.
- Involve relatives and family friends to help support your child's learning.
- Praise as your child attempts new learning, and offer help and support when it is needed.

Tip 1 | Talk With Your Child-----

Research shows that listening and speaking to others are the foundation for developing reading and writing skills. Children often need to talk about their ideas before they can put them down on paper effectively. Here are some ways of encouraging your child to talk with you:

- Talk with your child frequently about what he or she is reading and writing.
- Have your child retell the main parts of the text. Ask questions to encourage him or her to provide detail and help organise thoughts.
- Talk with your child about such things as movies, television programmes, songs, and plays. Encourage him or her to express and justify opinions.
- Take turns sharing humorous family stories with your child.
- Be positive and encourage your child to share his or her opinions and feelings.

Six tips to improve reading comprehension in your early reader:

Have him read aloud. This forces him to go slower, which gives him more time to process what he reads, which improves reading comprehension. Plus, he's not only seeing the words, he's hearing them, too. You can also take turns reading aloud.

Provide the right kinds of books. Make sure your child gets lots of practise reading books that aren't too hard. She should recognise at least 90 percent of the words without any help. Stopping any more often than that to figure out a word makes it tough for her to focus on the overall meaning of the story.

Reread to build fluency. To gain meaning from text and encourage reading comprehension, your child needs to read quickly and smoothly - a skill known as fluency. Rereading familiar, simple books gives your child practice at decoding words quickly, so she'll become more fluent in her reading comprehension.

Talk to the teacher. If your child is struggling mightily with reading comprehension, he may need more help with his reading — for example, building his vocabulary or practising phonics skills.

Supplement class reading. If your child's class is studying a particular theme, look for easy-to-read books or magazines on the topic. Some prior knowledge will help her make her way through tougher classroom texts and promote reading comprehension.

Talk about what he's reading. This "verbal processing" helps him remember and think through the themes of the book. Ask questions before, during, and after a session to encourage reading comprehension.



See examples of questions on the next page.



Questions, questions, questions.....?????????

<p>Retrieval questions</p> <p>Where and when did the story take place?</p> <p>What did s/he/it look like?</p> <p>Who was s/he/it? Can you name the....?</p> <p>Where did s/he/it live?</p> <p>Who are the characters in the book?</p> <p>What happened after?</p> <p>How many....?</p> <p>Describe what happened at....?</p> <p>Who spoke to? Identify who....?</p> <p>Find the meaning of....?</p> <p>What is. ... ?</p>	<p>How did ___ feel? Why?</p> <p>Describe ___ reaction / feeling</p> <p>In what ways does ___ ? Explain...</p> <p>Agree or disagree with an opinion. Justify.</p> <p>How do we know ___?</p> <p>What does this tell us about how ___ is feeling / thinking?</p> <p>Have you ever had a similar experience? How did you feel?</p>
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Simple comprehension questions

<p>What do you think is happening here? (interpret)</p> <p>What happened in this part of the story? What might this mean? (interpret)</p> <p>Through whose eyes is the story told? (deduce)</p> <p>Do you know what might happen next? (deduce)</p>	<p>What do we know about....? (deduce/ infer) e.g. Sarah was up the tree in her best frock. What do we know about Sarah? (deduce)</p> <p>What could this tell us about the character? (infer)</p>
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Some questions to help children deduce, infer and interpret

<p>What do you think will happen because of ... (infer/deduce depending on text evidence)</p> <p>If this was you – how would your friends react? (interpret and deduce)</p> <p>How do we know that? (deduce/ infer- depending on text)</p>	<p>Look at the text and find.... What do you think...? (infer)</p> <p>What was _____ thinking as he...? How do you know? (could be any depending on the text)</p> <p>If you were in _____'s shoes what would you do now? (interpret)</p>
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Tip 3 | Make Reading Enjoyable-----

You can help your child enjoy reading by helping him or her find interesting things to read. If your child enjoys reading, he or she is likely to read a lot and become a proficient reader. Here are some suggestions for encouraging your child to read:

- Read with your child. Talk about what you are reading together – for example, compare characters in the story with people you both know.
- Make sure that you have books, magazines, and other reading materials on hand for long car rides or train trips.
- Browse together in libraries and book stores. Look at interactive CD-ROMs and the Internet as well as books.
- Encourage your child to look at the graphic features in reading materials, such as photos, illustrations, and charts. Help your child understand how they are used and what their purposes are.
- Access free resources on the Internet
- Consider getting a subscription to a children’s newspaper or magazine on nature, sports, science, or another area that interests your child.

Many children like to read such materials as these:

- stories that reflect their image of themselves
- song lyrics or scripts that appeal to their musical and artistic tastes
- materials that are amusing, such as jokes or funny stories
- fiction that focuses on action or plot
- books in a series that allow the reader to connect with the characters
- science fiction or fantasy
- newspapers and magazines
- materials with both print and pictures, such as comic books or football cards
- things that they can read with others – such as jokes, game scores, or brain teasers
- books or articles that contain positive or powerful ideas about our world

Tip 5 | Be a Positive Role Model -----

As their children’s first teachers and role models, parents strive to provide consistent, positive examples for their children. Your involvement and support as a parent can influence your child’s attitudes and his or her interest and achievement in reading and writing. Talk regularly with your child about things you have read in newspapers, magazines, and books. Ask your child what he or she has been reading. Show that you read for a variety of purposes. Read newspaper articles to keep informed about world issues. Read advertisements to compare different brands. Check movie listings to decide on the weekend’s entertainment.