

Reading at home

Reading should be a pleasure not a chore! It is really important that you make reading a natural part of daily family activities.

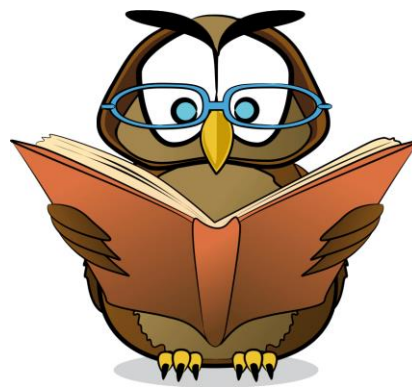
- Read aloud to your child as often as possible regardless of their age. Make it enjoyable.
- Be aware that reading is not just about reading books; it plays a large part in our daily lives.
- Find a magazine based on your child's interests and read together.
- Use local libraries.
- Make use of audio CDs available in libraries.
- Try to make sure that your child sees other people in the family reading regularly.
- Talk about books, newspapers or magazines you have been reading.
- If you have younger children, encourage your child to hear them read or even read simple books to their younger siblings.
- When you are reading with your child at home, try to identify the purpose e.g. Is it for fun or for homework or to find out information on a 'need to know' basis?

Reading aloud with your child

When you are reading aloud to your child, encourage them to follow the text as you are reading it. This will help develop the eye movements needed for reading. Try to make the whole experience enjoyable.

If your child is reading aloud to you from a book they have brought home from school, consider the following:

- Choose a quiet place to read where you won't be interrupted.
- Sit side by side in a comfortable position.
- Choose a time when you both feel good (not hungry or tired).
- 10-15 minutes is long enough.
- Be patient.
- Always praise your child for the words/sentences they read well.



Keeping the flow

Try to keep the flow of reading going:

- If your child cannot read a word, do not allow them to struggle. Help them sound the word out or tell them the word and move on.
- Sometimes take it in turns to read a sentence or paragraph if it's a long book. Many children enjoy being read to, so if the reading is becoming a struggle, take over and finish the session. End on a positive note.
- Try to build confidence to have a go. To do this it is important not to criticise any mistakes.

The more that you read,
The more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
The more places you'll go.
-Dr. Seuss

Questions to ask your child

Comprehension is a key part of reading. Ask your child questions every time you read together to check their understanding of the text. Can they find evidence in the text to support their answers?

- Can you predict what might happen next?
- Did you like or dislike the book?
- What was your favourite part?
- Can you describe the characters?
- Can you describe the setting?
- Can you re-tell the book in your own words?
- Does the book remind you of your own experiences?
- Did anything in the story surprise you?
- Why do you think the author chose to use a certain word or phrase?
- What kind of atmosphere was the author trying to create?
- What did you figure out about the book that the author did not tell you?
- If you were the author, how might you have written a different ending?
- Do you have any questions you would like to ask the author about the book?

Learning new vocabulary

Research shows how important it is that children are given every possible opportunity to extend their vocabulary. Books are a wonderful way to do this, both the books that you read to them, and the ones they read themselves.

Every time you read with your child, choose a couple of new words that they don't know the meaning of and discuss them.

Be a **WORD EXPLORER**.

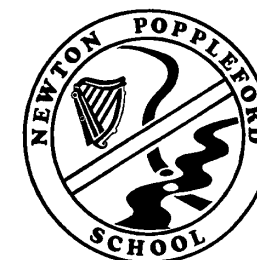
You might want to:

- Say it - in a loud, quiet, silly voice.
- Spell it or sound it out.
- Put it in a sentence.
- Explain it - what does it mean?
- Act it - think of an action to help you remember the meaning of the word.
- Write it - maybe in a special 'Word Explorer' notepad.

Most children need to hear a new word a number of times before it becomes embedded in their memory and they can confidently use it in their speech and writing.

Please tell us about any new vocabulary your child has learnt in their Reading Diary, so we can celebrate it in school too.

Newton Popleford Primary School



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